central VOICE

The Smart Market

PAGE 9

MARCH • APRIL 2007

$120 Million Spent in 2006 with Certified LGBT Suppliers

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GAY AND LESB AN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce co-founder and President Justin Nelson announced that more than $120 million dollars was spent in 2006 with NGLCC certified LGBT suppliers. This amount is up from a total of $20 million spent in 2005 when lgbt supplier diversity certification initiative was first piloted.

"This shows tremendous promise for the growth of the lgbt supplier initiative," says Nelson. "The massive growth is proof that corporate America is not only embracing certified lgbt suppliers as a part of their diverse supply chain, but they are excited about it."

Nelson urges reaching out to corporations considering adding lgbt suppliers to their vendor rolls.

"To those corporations thinking about adding lgbt businesses as diverse suppliers, I say now is the time. You must do business in the communities you serve to remain credible. Your diverse supply chain must look like your customer and employee base or the customer and employee base that you are trying to attract and it is our job to help you get there," says Nelson.

Nelson also urges corporations not inclusive of glbt individuals and business to "examine corporate wide diversity practices and take note that if you based your corporate non-discrimination policies on federal government mandates, lgbt employees would not be protected in your company. Non-discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression would not be a part of your company's diversity policies."

Law of the Land – Central VOICE reader **Brianne DiSylvester**, originally from the region, caught up with **Jude Law** at his new movie "Holiday" after party. Law saw DiSylvester 's web site Sheckys.com, an entertainment site for NYC, Boston, Atlanta, LA, SF, Chicago.

March 29 NYC Event

ACT UP Turns 20 in March

By Michael Petrelis
SF Correspondent

Thursday, March 29, ACT UP acknowledges its 20th anniversary with a demonstration and march to Wall Street to demand Health Care for All, Single-Payer Health Insurance, and Drug Price Controls. This is a "permitted" event, which steps off mid-day on March 29 and inaugurates the campaign to make "Access to Health Care" a major issue in the 2008 presidential election.

The AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power – ACT UP - started because writer Nora Ephron had a cold.

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Larry Kramer, in tee shirt, with his brother **Arthur** in 2006. *Photo crxNY Times.*

Whitaker Center

Premiere Offers Art, Fun & Food March 16

Want to take a cruise but stay at home?

Join the revelers at Premiere March 16 at Whitaker Center, Harrisburg. "We're full steam ahead," says Vicki DiSylvester, director of events and development for AIDS community Alliance. ACA is annual host of the ever-popular fund-raising event that benefits central Pennsylvania people with HIV and AIDS.

"We're top to bottom, all levels in Whitaker, each floor full of fun," DiSylvester says. Traditionally, the event offers a Silent Art Auction, this year trumped up to also include a small and very special Live Auction in partnership with The

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Funded by Foundation for Enhancing Communities

Kevin Burrell Launches Rainbow Pride Rural Project

Targeting York, Mifflin, Juniata and Perry Counties, Kevin Burrell recently launched the Rainbow Pride Rural Project. The project is funded by The Foundation for Enhancing Communities and receives administrative support from Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, Harrisburg.

"With a new year ahead, Burrell says, "I've renewed my commitment to folk out there who want to create something new." The Rainbow Pride Rural Project is an opportunity for members of the glbtq

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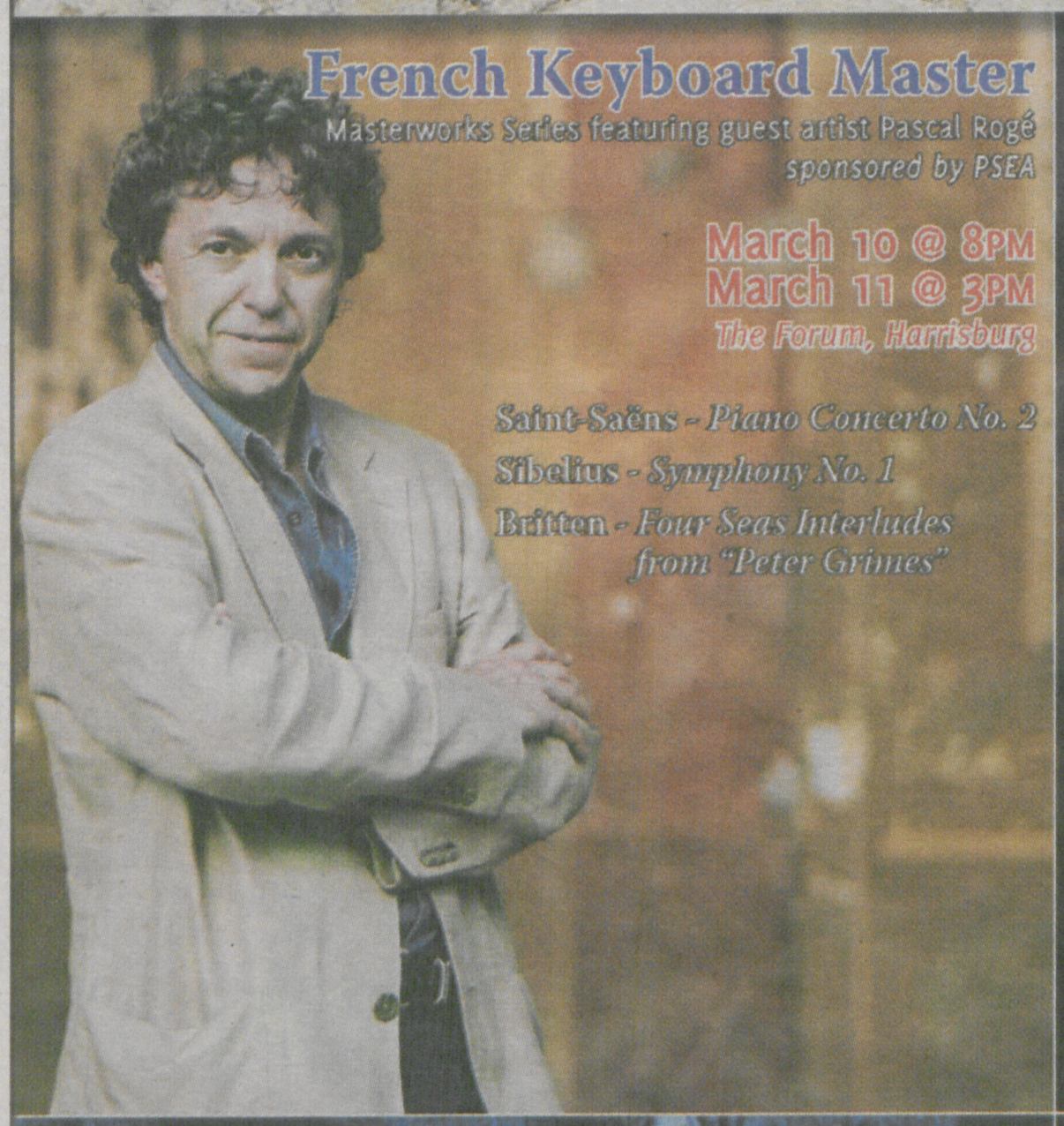
Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

Stuart Malina, Music Director

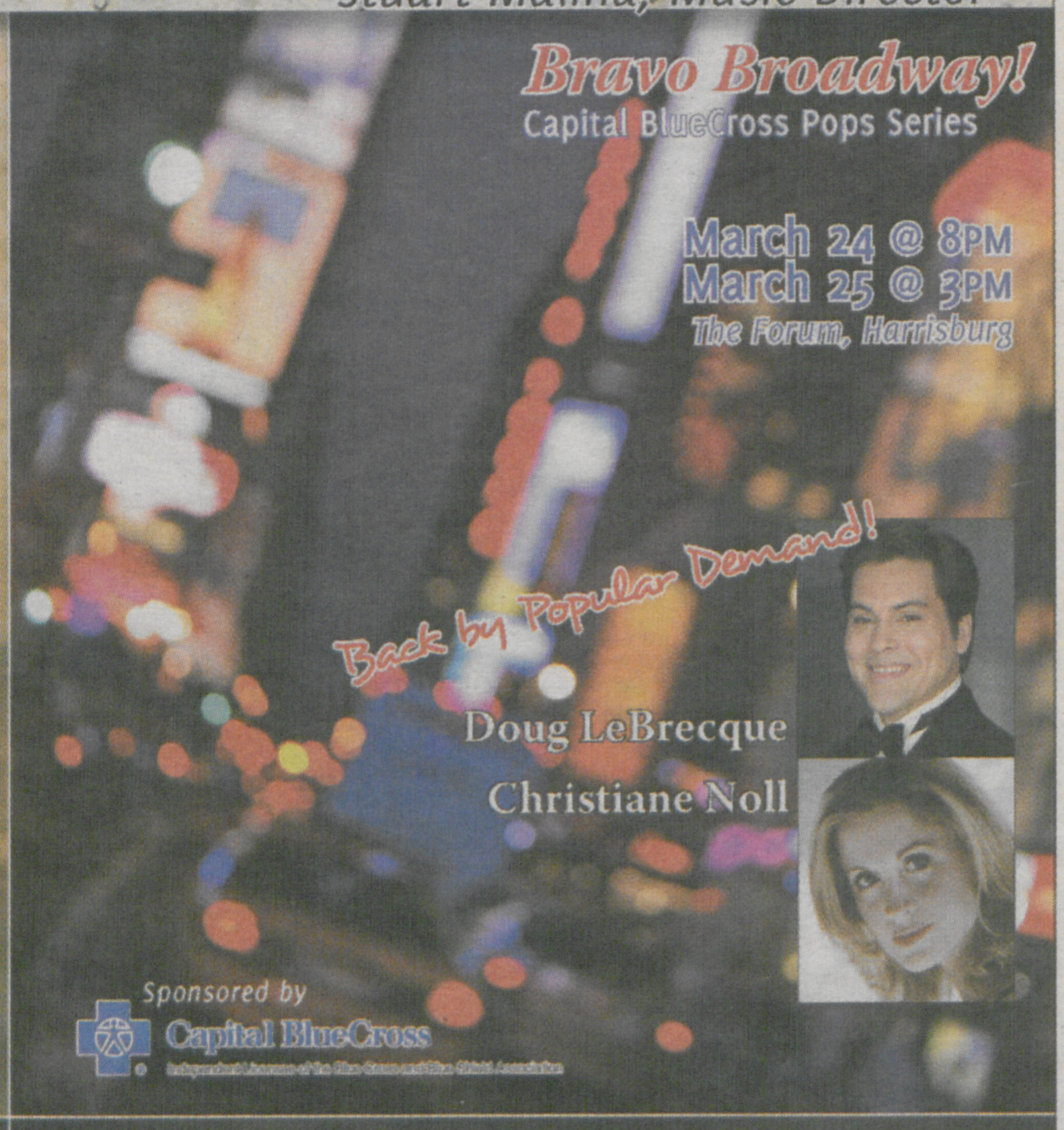


French Keyboard Master

Masterworks Series featuring guest artist Pascal Rogé
sponsored by PSEA

March 10 @ 8PM
March 11 @ 3PM
The Forum, Harrisburg

Saint-Saëns - *Piano Concerto No. 2*
Sibelius - *Symphony No. 1*
Britten - *Four Seas Interludes from "Peter Grimes"*



Bravo Broadway!

Capital BlueCross Pops Series

March 24 @ 8PM
March 25 @ 3PM
The Forum, Harrisburg

Back by Popular Demand!

Doug LeBrecque
Christiane Noll

Sponsored by Capital BlueCross

Legends & Fairytales

Masterworks Series

April 21 @ 8PM
April 22 @ 3PM
The Forum, Harrisburg

Wagner - *Siegfried Idyll*
Wagner, arr. Stokowski - *Love Music from "Tristan & Isolde"*
Prokofiev - *Excerpts from "Cinderella"*

Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Magnum Opus

Masterworks Series featuring guest artist Brent Phillips

May 19 @ 8PM
May 20 @ 3PM
The Forum, Harrisburg

Dvořák - *Scherzo Capriccioso*
Scott McAllister - *Concerto for Trombone & Orchestra (World Premiere)*
Rachmaninoff - *Symphony No. 2*

Sponsored by the Hall Foundation

Tickets at HarrisburgSymphony.org or by calling 717.545.5527

HARRISBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Launches

With a theme of "Building Business, Creating Community," the Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce officially launched itself at Harrisburg's International House with installation of a board of directors.

"We're the only glbt chamber of commerce in Pennsylvania and we are also affiliated with the national glbt chamber," founding co-chair Russ Boggs told an enthusiastic crowd of 42 people.

Harrisburg City Council member Dan Miller read aloud an official city proclamation welcoming the new chamber. "Our community is truly a force in the city and the region's economy," Miller told the group.

The new organization's board of directors are: President, Russell A. Boggs, Retired Educator; Vice President, Judith L. Chambers, Owner, Judy's Household Services; Secretary & Treasurer, David A. Zwifka, Executive Director, Historic Harrisburg Association; At-Large Directors are Thomas W. Caruso, Chaplain, Hershey Medical Center; Dennis Della Franco, Owner, Waterbury Interiors and Transitions; and Kathrina L. Nease, Principal, Central PA Solutions.

Money Talks, Discrimination Walks – **The Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce** recently held its first official meeting at Harrisburg's International House. L-R are **David Leas**, **David Zwifka**, **Judy Chambers**, **Harry Long**, **Bob Nease**, **Greg Summers**, and **Kit Nease**.

ACT UP continued

She was supposed to read at the NYC gay and lesbian community center February 1987, but a case of the sniffles forced her to cancel.

Ephron is that rare individual, who all because of a runny nose, changed human history. Filling in for her calcellation days later, Larry Kramer screamed into action those hearing his remarks March 10, 1987. Others mark the ACT UP birthday as March 24, when 17 people were arrested in a Wall Street invasion.

Actor Martin Sheen, friend of Kramer's who had performed as Ned Weeks in his play "The Normal Heart," was at ACT UP's first meeting. Time (ital) magazine's medical reporter Christine Gorman was also there. Mike Salinas wrote the first story on ACT UP while serving as news editor at the NY Native.

Time magazine medical reporter Christine Gorman, who attended the first ACT UP meeting said, "I remember Larry telling the group half of you are going to be dead in x number of years. That was such a powerful, visceral feeling.

"Losing friends, reporting on the epidemic, the continuing intersection of public and private lives. And now, 20 years later, seeing the wider connections with global health. But most of all, that incredible cry of rage: Silence = Death."

Contact: www.actupny.org about March 29 event in NYC.

Central VOICE SF correspondent Michael Petrelis has appeared on *The O'Reilly Factor, CNN, ABC News,* and *NPR*. His remarks have appeared in *The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Raw Story, The Chicago Tribune, The New Republic, and Stars & Stripes.*

Rainbow Pride Royal Project continued

community who live in rural counties near Harrisburg to come together for support, growth or to simply socialize in non-traditional ways.

Burrell says his feedback indicates that "members of the community travel to Harrisburg to sample the night life and come in droves to the annual Pride Festival, but not for much more." The project wants to respond to that reality by creating safe spaces for support, camaraderie, and ways for similar people to gather.

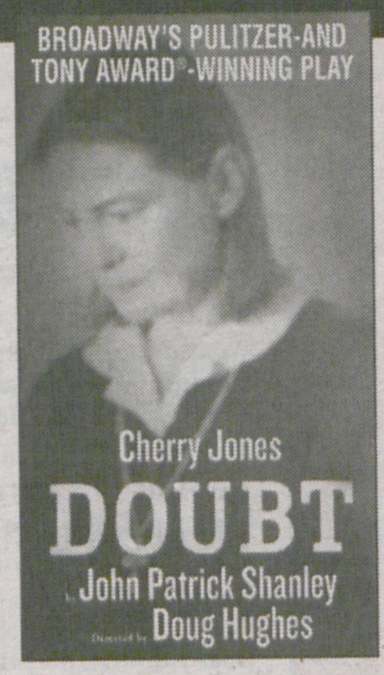
The glbtq community is rich in resources. "Many of us know people who can provide guidance on starting businesses, where to find glbtq-friendly counseling or how to plan for the future of a unique family. The problem is that these types of services are often located in urban centers like Harrisburg, Lancaster, or York. "This leaves some members of our community in more rural settings unsupported and isolated," Burrell says. The project wants to bring resources to more locations where traditionally there have been none.

To start, the project is focusing on members of our community living in Juniata, Mifflin, Perry and York Counties. So far, about 50 residents of these counties, as a statement of the community's interest and belief in this work, stepped forward to share their email addresses, phone numbers, and home addresses. A York business and church have offered to host meetings (with a restaurant/coffee shop or two in Perry and Mifflin Counties to follow soon). Additionally, a financial planner and attorney have agreed to be available for informal questions and answers regarding the needs of non-traditional families.

Information: Leave a message for Burrell at MCC (717-236-7387); kevinb2004@msn.com; or visit www.AskGLSH.org and look for information on the project. Burrell is often chatting online under the Rural Project user name in www.OutinHarrisburg.com.

HERSHEY THEATRE 2006 - 2007 SEASON

Thurs., MARCH 15 at 8 pm
Tickets $48, $42, $35, $25
Your concert ticket could win you a free trip to Ireland!
Call 717-534-3415 for details.



Broadway's most honored play, **DOUBT** is the story of a strong-minded woman faced with a difficult decision. In a very rare event, **DOUBT** will tour with its original Tony® Award winning star, Cherry Jones.
Tues. – Sun., MAR. 27 – APR. 1
Tickets $60 to $20

MOSCOW FESTIVAL BALLET
Cinderella
A full-length ballet with music by Sergei Prokofiev and a company of 60 dancers.
Friday, MARCH 23 at 8 pm
Tickets $60, $55, $45, $35

Tuesday, APRIL 3 at 8 pm
Tickets $80, $75, $65, $50

This spectacular new musical production celebrates FRANK SINATRA, SAMMY DAVIS, JR. and DEAN MARTIN live, on stage. Their big band will be swingin' with some of the finest music ever recorded: "I've Got You Under My Skin", "That's Amore", "Mr. Bojangles".
Tues. – Sun., APRIL 17 – 22
Tickets $55 to $15

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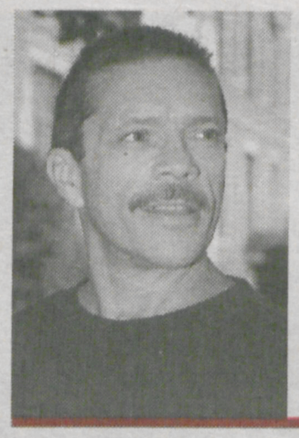
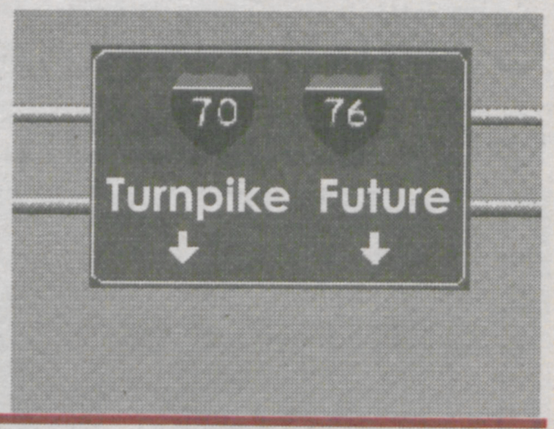


Highway to Hell?

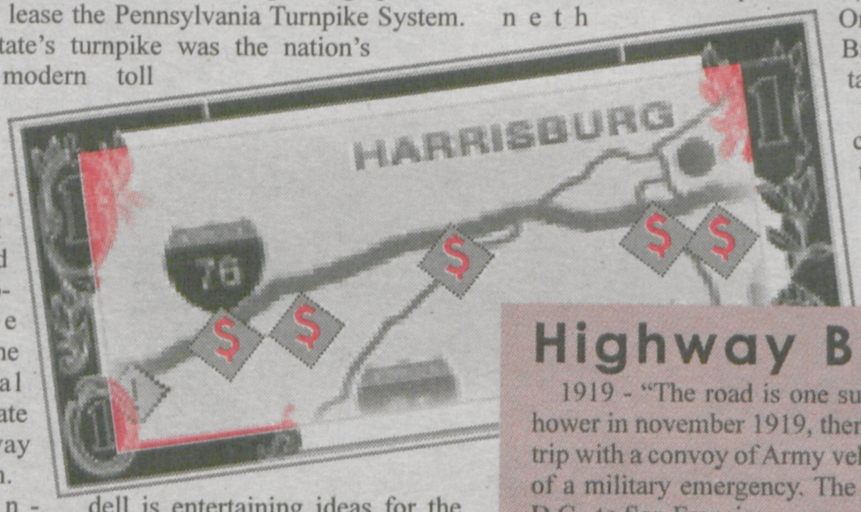
Will Rendell's Private Highway Deals Be Full of Potholes?

By Frank Pizzoli, Publisher



Known as an icon of American engineering know-how, Pennsylvania's now crumbling highway system is up for grabs.

A slow moving highway privatization trend that hatched in the Midwest (not California for a change) has Gov. Ed Rendell speeding up to sell and/or lease the Pennsylvania Turnpike System. The state's turnpike was the nation's first modern toll road of the post World War II era and a prototype for the federal Interstate Highway System.



Rendell is entertaining ideas for the 359-miles of turnpike running from the Delaware River to Ohio. Spokeswoman Kate Phillips says the state is not seeking proposals for the 171 1/2 miles of "extensions" in the turnpike system but would consider an offer on ways those portions of the highway system could be managed privately.

Rendell hopes to raise billions of dollars in lease and usage fees for transportation projects that otherwise would be paid for through taxes – increased taxes. In Indiana, an Australian-Spanish conglomerate owns a toll road. Maryland already charges tolls for several bridges and tunnels as well as a portion of Interstate 95. Pennsylvania could see similar deals.

"If Pennsylvania makes such a move, it would be the largest US toll road privatization deal to date," says one source familiar with the planning efforts underway. "It does have national impact and national consequences," says C. Kenneth Orski, Innovation Briefs, a transportation newsletter.

"If Rendell can pull this off, that will be a major encouragement to governors and others in other states," says Robert Poole, director of transportation studies for the Los Angeles-based Reason Foundation.

State officials accepted offers through the end of 2006. Among companies expected to make a pitch is an alliance of Australia's Macquarie Infrastructure Group and Spain's Cintra. Together they leased the Indiana Toll Road for 75 years for $3.8 billion. The same group started the ball rolling in 2004 by striking a deal to pay $1.83 billion to lease the Chicago Skyway for 99 years. On the same day the Indiana deal closed, another Australian toll road operator, Transurban, paid more than half a billion dollars for a 99-year lease on Virginia's Pocahontas Parkway, and the Texas Transportation Commission approved a $1.3 billion Cintra bid and construction giant Zachry Construction to build and operate a 40-mile toll road out of Austin.

Privatization is hard to resist given the hefty infusion of cash to state coffers. Rendell's plan forecasts annual revenues of $545 million with a total value of between $3 billion to $10 billion. Still, local control can trump fast dollars. In Indiana, some believe privatization by Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels, who pushed a lease in spite of objections to placing a significant state asset in foreign hands in return for fast cash cost Republicans control of the Indiana House in November 2006.

"The state is receiving between $3 billion and $4 billion in a one-time-only payment," B. Patrick Bauer, the incoming Indiana Democratic speaker, wrote in an opinion piece in the South Bend Tribune. "In return, the foreign investors are getting control of an asset that they expect will generate more than $130 billion in profits over the course of this deal. Does that seem like a fair trade to you?"

So far, Rendell has swerved around any potholes, although in an editorial the York Dispatch called the idea "goofy" and "humiliating."

Nationally, there is talk of privatizing the New York Thruway, the Ohio and New Jersey Turnpikes, and private-sector interest in building and operating highways and bridges from Alabama to Alaska. More than 20 states have enacted legislation allowing public-private partnerships, or P3s, to run highways. Some $25 billion in public-private highway deals are in the works. In 1991, the total cost of the interstate highway system was estimated at $128.9 billion.

Send us your thoughts. *See VOICE Box this page.*

Highway Benchmarks & Potholes

1919 - "The road is one succession of dust, ruts, pits, and holes," wrote Dwight D. Eisenhower in november 1919, then a young lieutenant colonel, after heading out on a cross-country trip with a convoy of Army vehicles in order to test the viability of the nation's highways in case of a military emergency. The journey took 62 days for his trucks to travel from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco.

1956 - Thirty-seven years later, in 1956, Ike began the building of a national road system by signing the Federal-Aid Highway Act, which called for the federal and state governments to build 41,000 miles of high-quality roads across the nation, over rivers and gorges, swamps and deserts, over and through vast mountain ranges, in what would later be called the "greatest public works project in human history."

2006 - Former Bush administration official and now Governor of Indiana, Mitch Daniels, acknowledged receipt of eight wire transfers in which Indiana received $3.8 billion from the Spanish construction firm Cintra and the Macquarie Infrastructure Group (MIG) of Australia. In exchange the state handed over operation of the 157-mile Indiana Toll Road for the next 75 years. The arrangement will yield hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks for the consortium. By one calculation, the Toll Road would generate more than $11 billion over the 75-year life of the contract, a return on MIG-Cintra's $3.8 billion investment.

2007 - Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell begins the serious work of revewing similar proposals for the Keystone State's rundown Turnpike system.

Letters to the Editor

Central VOICE Brings Business

Dear Editor,
Wanted to let you know that we've seen new business from our ad in Central VOICE. We hope to continue a long relationship with your newspaper.

Jim Hadfield & Bill Grace
THE PAPER LION GALLERY

While Rome Burns?

Dear Editor,
The article by Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (Jan-Feb 07) asked how bad are the state's roads. I'd say pretty bad. We always read that Pennsylvania is the nation's crossroads, located 500 miles from every important city. You'd think that our General Assembly could lift their noses from the public trough long enough to show a little know-how and planning for a better highway system. Not just brag about it while it crumbles.

Shannon,
A Reader

Mautner Project

Dear Editor,
After I read your story (Jan-Feb 07) on Mautner Project's "Hope and Healing" program for cancer survivors, I contact them for more information. (mautner@mautnerproject.org) or 1-866-628-8637)

Cynthia,
A Reader

Loves Editorial Direction

Dear Editor,
I really love the expanding editorial direction of Central VOICE. When you're gay or lesbian or whatever, people think you're about nothing else. We're part of our communities and all that goes on. We're interested in hearing news and reading stories about our towns that are not directly related to gay issues.

Jerry,
A Reader

Great Job

Dear Editor,
Just wanted to tell you what a great job you and your staff have done with Central VOICE. Keep up the
good work.

Bill
A Reader

Citizens Bank Customer

Dear Editor,
It's nice to see my bank, Citizens Bank, sending information to your newspaper (Jan-Feb 07). I like knowing the bank where I keep my money respects me.

Randall,
A Reader & Citizens Bank Customer

Citizens Bank

VOICE box

Do you favor Gov. Ed Rendell's plan to turn over the administration of the PA Turnpike to private sector, possibly foreign, management companies?

Email your thoughts to Central VOICE: posops@aol.com

Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future Ways in On Rendell Highway Plan

Central VOICE asked Andrea Boykowycz, Outreach Coordinator, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future Ways, to answer reader's questions on Gov. Ed Rendell's plan to privatize administration of Pennsylvania highways.

Q - Is privatizing the PA Turnpike a good idea? Why good? Why bad?

A - More important than the state's plans for the PA Turnpike is what it does with any money it raises, or hopes to raise, from the lease. Although the Turnpike's uncompleted expansion projects, the Mon-Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway, were not part of the proposal that the Governor's office issued, we all should be sure that no proceeds from any Turnpike lease go to fund these unnecessary boondoggles. Our roads and bridges are crumbling, and public transportation agencies in every county have to cut services and raise fares in order to cope with budget shortfalls. This is no time to be distracted by a $5.4 billion project that we don't really need.

Our real needs are pretty clear. The Governor's Transportation Funding & Reform Commission identified an annual shortfall of over $1 billion for PennDOT and public transportation agencies across the state. To raise that level of money from a long-term lease of the Turnpike would require an asking price well above the $30 billion that's been bandied around as the upper range of what the state could expect from this kind of deal -and even then there'd be no guarantee that the fund created by the lease would be sufficient to cover necessary transportation safety improvements and enhancements without additional taxes.

As it is now, the Turnpike's tolls only pay for Turnpike maintenance and operations. Clearly, in order to stretch that income to cover operations costs for PennDOT and public transit as well, tolls would have to be raised considerably, and over the long run Pennsylvania drivers would pay more, one way or another, for the roads, bridges and buses we all depend on.

Q - Does it matter that a foreign company or group of foreign companies may have control of our Turnpike? Are their security concerns?

A - Foreign ownership of basic infrastructure paid for by Pennsylvania taxpayers raises real issues, including security. Again, for us the biggest concern is that the income that would come from such a leasing deal would then become a political football, paying for wasteful pork projects like the Mon-Fayette toll road.

Q - Is privatization worth the short-term infusion of cash versus the long-term huge profits to companies outside of the US?

A - Leasing the Turnpike will not meet all our existing operating shortfalls for road and bridge maintenance and public transportation in Pennsylvania, let alone needs that we may not be able to anticipate 30 or 40 years down the road. Inevitably, Pennsylvanians will be asked to pay higher taxes (in addition to higher tolls) to pay for necessary transportation improvements - whether or not the lease deal goes through. It's politically naive to suggest that leasing out the toll roads will make the need for new taxes go away. Ultimately, Pennsylvania drivers will pay for new transportation projects from their own pockets - through both increased tolls and taxes.

Q - Are there US companies that could privatize highways rather than relying on foreign business groups?

A - We aren't speculating about any particular companies.

Q – What didn't readers ask that you think is important?

A - Any aspect of privatizing the Turnpike I haven't asked about but you think is important. It'll be important to take a close look at the legislative mechanism that enables public-private partnerships to happen in Pennsylvania. Currently, there is no legal basis for these kinds of deals - but the legislature will be considering a bill very shortly that will authorize public entities to enter into leases and other kinds of contracts with private entities to operate public services. We want to be sure that the public has ample opportunity to review and comment on these kinds of deals, and that the General Assembly isn't left out of the decision-making process for leasing multi-district or statewide infrastructure like the Turnpike.

PennFUTURE
Every environmental victory grows the economy

State of the Union: Sea Change?

By Jason Cianciotto

After watching the State of the Union address, I realized that the most important thing about the speech for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Americans was what was NOT in it.

For the past three years, President Bush has used this speech as an opportunity to speak out against marriage equality through veiled language about the "tradition" or "sanctity" of marriage. This time, there was absolutely no mention of it.

The difference can't be overstated. It represents a sea change in the way he and other conservatives are communicating to their allies on the religious right.

This is another manifestation of the growing split in the Republican Party over "contentious" social issues such as same-sex marriage and stem cell research — a split that will only expand as the 2008 presidential election draws nearer. In the meantime, I think that anti-gay political and religious leaders don't quite know what to do about this new cold shoulder from their party of choice.

On the day of the speech, Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council (FRC) fired two warning shots over the bow of the president's ship. He included a message in the daily e-newsletter to FRC members in which he claimed that there were a number of "pro-family" issues the president should address in this new Congress. He also published an "Open Letter to President Bush" calling for attention to the social issues that are the hallmark of the religious right, including opposition to marriage equality.

This message came out just after we learned that Rep. Marilyn Musgrave and Sen. Wayne Allard, the sponsors of the constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, do not plan to reintroduce the amendment in the coming year.

As others have proclaimed, what a difference an election makes! It's amazing that Perkins is now writing to the president as if he is an outsider.

I can"t help but view this as a window of opportunity for LGBT Americans, now that "family values" rhetoric seems to have, at least for the moment, moved off the table.

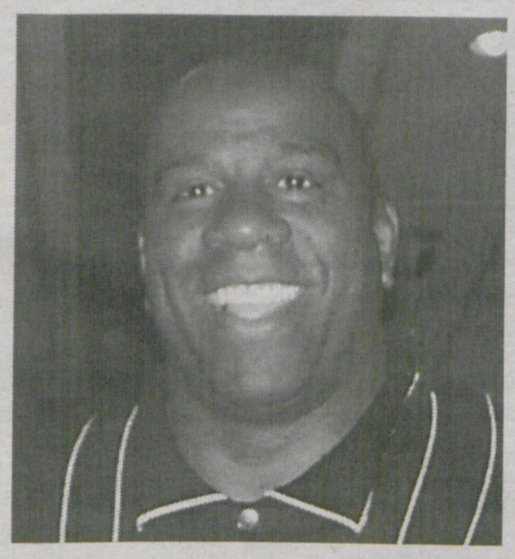
Has attacking LGBT equality been pushed to the back burner? Supporters of marriage equality can celebrate the fact that their personal relationships are no longer being used as anti-gay fodder in the president's most important speech of the year. Those who've criticized the gay rights movement's focus on marriage over the past few years can celebrate that important issues like access to health care are no longer taking a backseat to calculated attempts to divide the electorate.

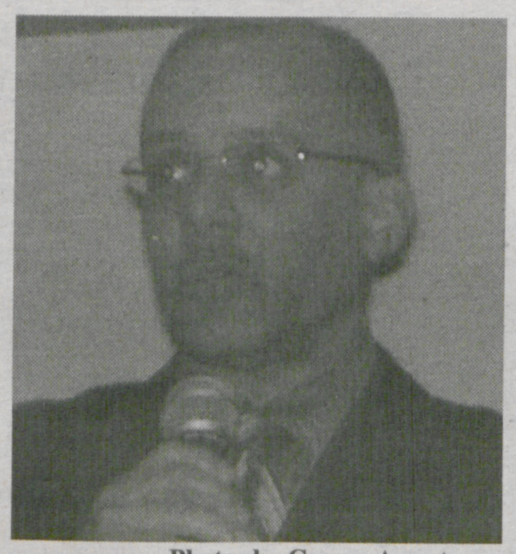
Of course, this doesn't mean progressives can rest on their laurels; there are other things the president didn't say. For example, his new domestic priorities fail to help Americans with the greatest need, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. His plan to make health care more affordable and accessible doesn't address the fact that Americans who are unable to afford insurance in the first place will have no use for a retroactive tax deduction. And what about the fact that I have to pay taxes on the health benefits my husband receives from my employer because our relationship is not legally recognized by the federal government?

Where is a revision of the federally funded abstinence-only education, which promotes ignorance and fuels a continuing AIDS epidemic, or protection in the so-called "No Child Left Behind Act" for our LGBT youth, who are regularly bullied and harassed out of public schools? Is President Bush aware that, according to his own government statistics, up to 1.6 million youth run away or are homeless annually and that more than half a million of those are LGBT youth?

So yes, "family values" rhetoric has fallen off the edge for this moment, and that's good — but at the same time, we must remember that concern for equality for our community isn't even on the president's (or his conservative cohorts') table.

Jason Cianciotto is the research director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute.





Photos by George Armstrong

Central VOICE witnessed Earvin "Magic" Johnson address several hundred Phila. fans and people interested in his journey with HIV/AIDS and his Campaign to End Black HIV/AIDS. "We must understand one another and move forward. If you don't have a loving and accepting church and you have HIV, find another church. If your uncle rejects you, find another uncle," he advised a cheering audience. Likely Phila. Mayoral candidate Sen. Vincent Hughes also addressed the crowd. Hughes, his wife and Johnson and his wife often work on programs together to raise awareness around HIV. Information: www.IStandwithMagic.com or 1-877-947-8263

State College Discusses Anti-discrimination Law

By Adam Smeltz

Expanding local anti-discrimination laws would not only protect sexual minorities, but also help sharpen Pennsylvania's competitive edge, the chairman of the state Human Relations Commission recently told a State College crowd.

"There is clearly a change in the climate," Stephen A. Glassman told a gathering of 50 people. He said that 17 states, including some surrounding Pennsylvania, have already banned discrimination that's based on sexual orientation.

The Keystone State, the third-slowest-growing state, needs to embrace change and new ideas if it's to expand, Glassman said.

Under his leadership, the state HRC has for three years encouraged municipalities to adopt local measures that outlaw discrimination that's based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Court cases in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Allentown have set precedent for such local laws, Glassman said.

Fourteen municipalities have taken steps, addressing discrimination in employment, housing and "public accommodation," such as bars and restaurants.

State laws already ban discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion, disability and other characteristics. Glassman said the General Assembly may be closer to expanding the ban to protect sexual minorities, as well.

But without any guarantees, local officials still should adopt their own policies, Glassman said. Glassman, HRC chairman since 2003, is openly gay.

The Wednesday gathering ran about two hours at the Ramada Inn. Organized by a local Advisory Council to the HRC, it was designed as a forum for local leaders and residents to hear from Glassman and others.

State College Mayor Bill Welch and Borough Councilman Don Hahn were among the attendees. Advisory Council members have said they hope the cause finds traction among Centre Region municipalities, but discussion Wednesday focused on State College. Welch said Borough Council support for new anti-discrimination laws is probably "a slam dunk." The next step, he said, could be a proposal before the council. Any council member can add an item to the council agenda.

Discussion at the session became heated and emotional at times. Most people appeared to support Glassman's efforts.

continued on page 14

LGBT COMMUNITY

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Protecting Yourself from Identity Theft

By Ronald R. Wetzel Jr.
Financial Advisor, Smith Barney

No one can doubt the immeasurable benefits of the information revolution. Today, thanks to e-mail and the Internet, many of us are more productive, informed and connected than ever before. Unfortunately, as a result, we are also more vulnerable.

The statistics are startling: Research by Harris Interactive in the summer of 2003 found that nearly seven million people were victims of identity theft in the previous 12 months, up 80% over the year before.

Understanding Identity Theft

Identity theft can take many forms. It typically occurs when someone uses your name and confidential information—including your Social Security Number, date of birth and mother's maiden name—to do something you didn't authorize. Perpetrators may take out a loan, use your credit card, open a new credit card in your name or withdraw money from your account.

A thief can obtain information about you by stealing your wallet, breaking into your car or home, going through your trash or illegally taking mail out of your mailbox. More sophisticated techniques include hacking into databases and Websites, sending out fake e-mails (called "phishing"), buying Website addresses similar to those of financial institutions and creating computer "spyware" programs that record your keystrokes. Information has also been stolen from computers, from data mistakenly posted on public Websites and illegally copied when credit or debit cards are swiped to pay for a purchase.

Vigilance Pays

Charges or withdrawals you don't recognize on statements from your credit card, bank or brokerage firm, failure to receive a new credit card upon expiration or a check that a payee didn't receive all point to the possibility that someone may have accessed your account without your knowledge.

How can you protect your personal information? You can minimize your vulnerability by being vigilant about protecting your personal information, monitoring your financial transactions, using updated computer technology and protecting your credit.

Here are some specific steps you may wish to consider:

Maintain Your Privacy

Before giving out your date of birth, Social Security Number or driver's license number, ask why the information is needed.

•Use a good shredder to dispose of anything containing your personal information: account statements, credit card solicitations, checks (both canceled and unused), paycheck stubs and medical records.

•Include only the last four digits of your credit card account on checks when sending a payment.

•If mail containing a canceled check or financial information has been tampered with, you may want to close the account and open a new one.

Monitor Financial Communications

•If someone contacts you by phone, letter or e-mail claiming to be from your financial institution and informs you of unusual account activity or asks questions to verify your identity, don't provide any information. Call the financial institution's main number (listed on your account statement or the back of your card) to ensure that you're speaking with an authorized representative

continued on page 7

Renaissance

Transgendered Education Association
Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter

Meeting Time: First Saturday each month–8–11p.m.
Location: Metropolitan Community Church–MCC
Address: 2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg, PA 17110
Cost: **$5** donation requested from non-members
Info: Providing a safe space for gender education and caring support for Cross Dressers, Transgendered Individuals (M2F &F2M) and those close to them. Plentiful parking in secure, low-traffic area, close to building. Light refreshments provided. Smoking and alcoholic beverages are not permitted inside. Changing area provided for those who need to dress.

March 3, 2007 - General Meeting & Discussion Groups

March 17- Spring Gala at Bube's Brewery - St. Patty's Day Feast & Karaoke
Contact Ellen Davidson ceedee578@aol.com for info; proceeds benefit Renaissance LSV.

April 7, 2007 - General Meeting & Discussion Groups

Transgendered 101 Educational Panel Offered for Universities, Businesses, various Organizations and Government Agencies

Managing Director: Jeanine Ruhsan – waterfilly@yahoo.com
Outreach Director: Kristen Richards – ock1127@aol.com
Address: Renaissance LSV • 2973 Jefferson St. • Harrisburg, PA 17110

and report the incident. Be just as circumspect with an e-mail from a financial institution—if you hit "Reply" or go to a Website listed in an e-mail, you risk falling into a trap.

•Scrutinize every account statement you receive and make sure you can identify all the transactions. Some thieves will put small charges on your card (some under $1) to see if you catch on before they start making larger purchases.

•Mail and paper is still currently the most common path to identity theft. If properly used, electronic receipt of statements and electronic bill payment can be safer than some paper-based transactions.

Use Updated Computer Technology

•If you're using a computer at home, keep your operating system up to date, set up a firewall and keep your virus protection and spyware detection programs current. If your computer has a feature for Internet use that notifies you if a form you're submitting is being redirected, be sure that feature is activated.

•When conducting online transactions, look for "https" at the beginning of a Website's address—the "s" indicates that the information was transmitted in encrypted fashion from a secure site.

Safeguard Your Credit Information

•Consider using one credit card that has a low limit for online purchases.

•Keep copies of your credit cards in a safe place in your house, and carry only the cards you need.

•Cancel and then cut up credit cards you don't use.

•Take advantage of the free credit report you can get from Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, the three major credit bureaus. You can call 1-877-FACT-ACT (1-877-322-8228) or go to www.annualcreditreport.com. Review the accounts in your name—if you don't recognize them, contact the credit bureaus immediately.

How to Respond

Unfortunately, even the most cautious of consumers can still be victimized by identity theft. If it happens to you, here are five steps that can help:

1.Call your financial institution immediately and close the compromised account. Ask what they recommend you do next.

2.File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338), www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

3.Contact the Social Security Administration, which maintains a fraud hotline, 1-800-269-0271, www.ssa.gov/oig/public_fraud_reporting/index.htm.

4.Contact the fraud division of one of the three main credit bureaus to consider having a fraud alert put on your file. The credit bureau will then notify the other two bureaus of the fraud: Equifax (1-888-766-0008, www.equifax.com), Experian (1-888-397-3742, www.experian.com) and TransUnion (1-800-680-7289, www.transunion.com). The free, 90-day security alert informs creditors that they must contact you before opening a new account or making changes to your existing account.

5.You can file a police report and submit a copy to the financial institution affected by the fraud as proof of the crime.

In working with credit card companies, banks, credit bureaus and law enforcement agencies, the time it takes to recover from identity theft can be extensive. A 2003 study on the aftermath of identity theft by the nonprofit Identity Theft Resource Center found that victims of identity theft spend 600 hours each recovering from the crime. Protecting your information to begin with is certainly the most cost- and time-effective strategy.

Ronald Wetzel is a Financial Advisor with Smith Barney located in Harrisburg and may be reached at 717-780-1789.

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Rainbow Market Report

Rainbow Market Report					
Company	Symbol	Year High	Year Low	01/31/07 Close	Fortune 500
Aetna Inc	AET	52.48	30.94	42.16	x
American Airlines	AMR	41.00	18.78	37.05	x
Apple Computer Inc.	AAPL	97.80	50.16	85.73	x
AT&T Corp.	T	37.88	24.72	37.63	x
Borders Group Inc.	BGP	25.49	16.20	20.98	x
The Charles Schwab Corp.	SCHW	20.86	14.00	18.92	x
Daimler Chrysler Corp.	DCX	64.90	45.98	62.49	
Dell Inc.	DELL	32.24	18.95	24.22	x
Estee Lauder Companies	EL	48.15	34.81	47.50	x
Ford Motor Co.	F	9.48	6.06	8.13	x
Gap Inc.	GPS	21.39	15.91	19.17	x
General Mills Inc.	GIS	59.23	47.05	57.24	x
Intel Corp.	INTC	22.50	16.75	20.96	x
Intuit Inc.	INTU	35.98	23.99	31.45	
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	69.41	56.65	66.80	x
Kraft Foods Inc.	KFT	36.67	28.43	34.92	
MetLife	MET	62.87	48.00	62.12	x
Microsoft Corp.	MSFT	31.48	21.46	30.86	x
Molson Coors Brewing Company	TAP	81.30	60.75	80.80	x
New York Times Co.	NYT	28.98	21.54	23.09	
Nike Inc.	NKE	101.20	75.52	98.81	x
PepsiCo Inc.	PEP	65.99	56.51	65.24	x
Sears, Roebuck & Co.	SHLD	182.38	115.95	176.65	x
Sprint Corp.	S	26.89	15.92	17.83	x
Toyota Motor Sales, USA Inc.	TM	137.97	94.52	131.78	
Viacom Inc.	VIA	43.87	32.42	40.73	x
Walgreens Co.	WAG	51.60	39.55	45.30	x
Xerox Corp.	XRX	17.31	13.16	17.20	x

CINEMA CENTER

Death At A Funeral

Opening Day 4/27/07

Starring: Matthew Macfayden and Rupert Graves
Directed By: Frank Oz – Rated: R

Who would have thought death can bring two people together again? When Daniel's (Matthew Macfayden) father dies, the pain hits the entire family. Robert (Rupert Graves), Daniel's brother, comes to help him with the funeral. After not seeing each other for years, they give off the air of a 'slightly' dysfunctional family. But, at the funeral of their deseaced father, they learn to work together when a blackmailer threatens to reveal a terrible secret unless he gets some cash. Together, the two brothers do everything they can to try to stop the blackmailer and entertain the other guests at the funeral at the same time. As you can imagine, the whole thing turns into quite the circus.

Fracture

Opening Day: 4/27/07

Starring: Anthony Hopkins and Ryan Gosling
Directed By: Gregory Hoblit – Rated: n/a

When a woman is murdered, her overly cautious structural engineer husband (Anthony Hopkins) is the first major suspect. At his trial though, he is found innocent, much to the dismay of the young district attorney (Ryan Gosling) that is prosecuting him. This movie is mainly about the many ways the two try to out smart each other. Flashing in and out of the courtroom, this is a thriller comedy that appeals to the young and old.

Meet The Robinsons

Opening Day 3/30/07

Animated – Directed By: Steve Anderson – Rated: n/a

Lewis has been an orphan for as long as he can remember. His one dream is to have a family that loves him. Then, one day, Lewis meets a stranger who takes him to the most amazing place... the future. There, he becomes part of an incredibly silly family, the Robinsons, who lead him on the greatest adventure of his life.

Nanny Diaries

Opening Day: 4/20/07

Starring: Scarlett Johansson – Directed By: Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini – Rated: n/a

Scarlett Johansson plays a young woman who is hired by the self-indulgent wife of an extremely rich husband to be the nanny for their somewhat neglected but extremely spoiled four-year-old son. As the marriage between the child's parents slowly begins to fall apart "Nan" is called upon to be more than just a nanny. The movie documents how she attempts to juggle being a good friend, a girlfriend, and an extremely demanding kid.

Perfect Stranger

Opening Day 4/13/07

Starring: Halle Berry, Bruce Willis, and Giovanni Ribisi – Directed By: James Foley – Rated: R

How far would you go to keep a secret? That's what this movie is all about. When an investigative reporter, Rowena Price (Halle Berry), becomes suspicious of an extremely powerful ad executive, Harrison Hill (Bruce Willis), she goes undercover to find out more. With the help of her associate, Miles Hailey (Giovanni Ribisi), Rowena becomes 'Hill' a girl that Harrison flirts with online and 'Katherine,' a temp at his agency. But, as she gets more involved in lies, she realizes she's not the only one telling them. The closer she gets to finding out the truth, the more she has to protect

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APRIL-

6th - Gay.com Party & Good Friday Celebration.
Come out and Show Just How Good You are!
9 PM Till Midnight.

8th - Easter Sunday-
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SmartMarket.org Promotes 8-County South Central PA

The Smart Market

Using the Region as a Brand for Business & Tourism

By Ann Elia Stewart

SmartMarket.org is getting the word out: South Central Pennsylvania is a smart choice for business re-location or start-up, real estate development, tourism, and raising a family.

Established in 2006, and administered by SouthCentral Team Pennsylvania, Inc., www.smartmarket.org touts the eight-county area – Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York Counties – as a great place to live and work because of its strategic location, financing and tax incentives, and quality of life.

According to Dan Robinson, Chair of the SmartMarket Board of Directors and Director of the Dauphin County Economic Development Corporation, "Within a 500-mile radius lies 40 percent of the United States population and more than 60 percent of Canada's population. The website offers a unified voice when we attend regional and national conferences to promote the area rather than have information divided up into individual areas," he said.

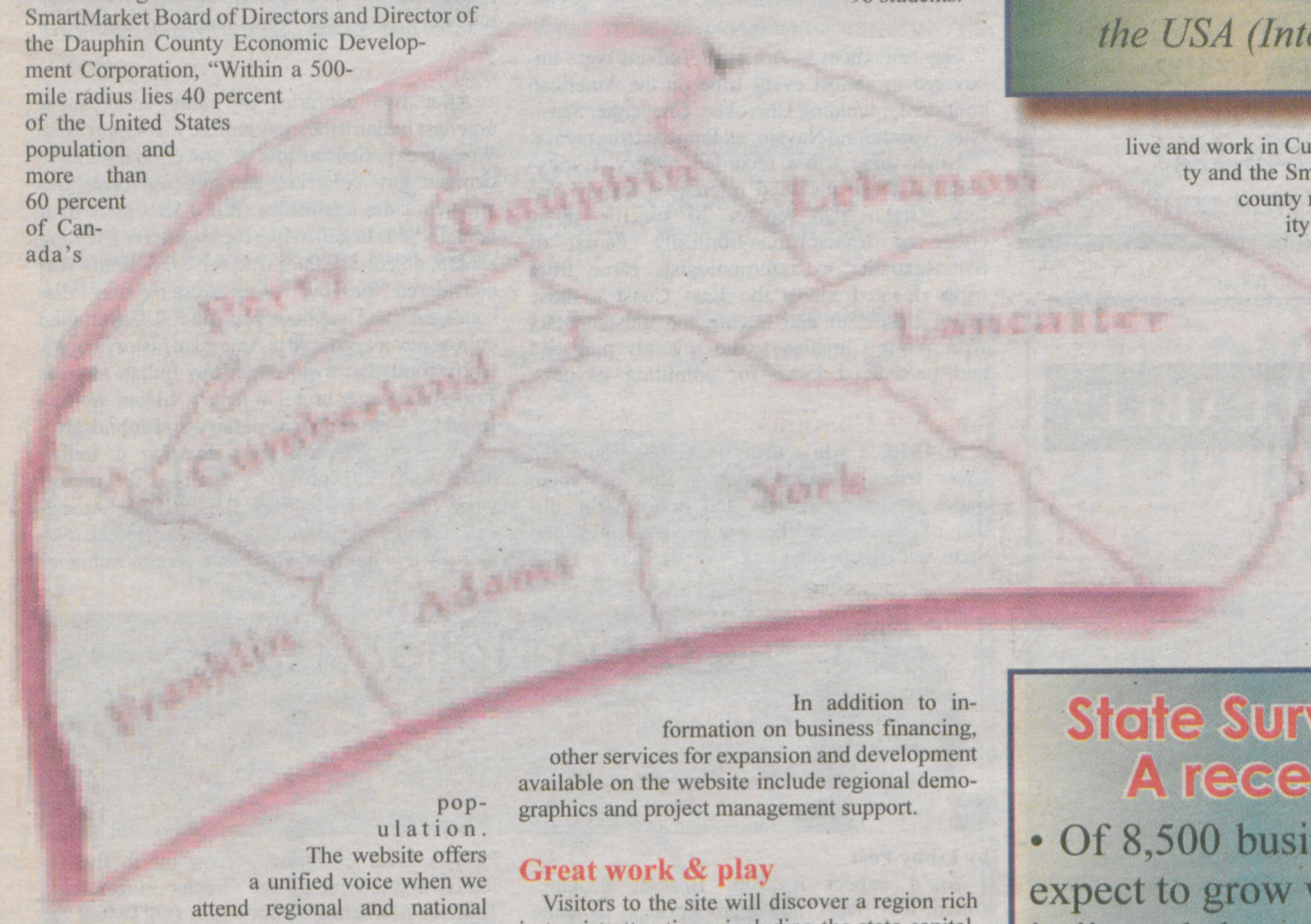
"It recognizes that people living in Dauphin County, for instance, may work in Cumberland or Adams, so the combined marketing effort reinforces the availability of a wide region to developers or business owners and a wide array of services to residents," Robinson explained."

According to Dave Black, president-CEO of The Capital Regional Economic Development Corporation (CREDC), the concept of SmartMarket – to work smart and live smart –combines the eight counties and economic development agencies into an attractive package. "People understand Pittsburgh as the Pittsburgh metro area, likewise with Philadelphia. Unfortunately, we do not have one dominant city to build a brand to tell the world about how great it is to live, work and play here," Black said. "We use the region as our brand, under the SmartMarket umbrella."

Incentives for business

SmartMarket.org features a variety of financial and incentive programs to attract business. The Small Business Fund, for instance, offers low interest loans to small businesses of 100 employees or less, while the PA Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) provides low interest loans to assist with the purchase and construction of real estate. The website also offers information about machinery and equipment loans, among others.

The Capital Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC), the development arm of the Harrisburg Regional Chamber, recently provided financing to the owners of Aa to Zz Child Care and Learning Center for the purchase and renovation of a building located along Hershey Road in Dauphin County. A Small Business First (SBF) loan of $175,000 allowed owners Ryan and Ashleigh Zimmerman, owners of the child care facility, to expand their facility from 53 to 96 students.



In addition to information on business financing, other services for expansion and development available on the website include regional demographics and project management support.

Great work & play

Visitors to the site will discover a region rich in tourist attractions, including the state capital, amusement parks and chocolate tours, battlefields and apple orchards, Pennsylvania Dutch country, a broad expanse of state parks and game lands, and a host of stadiums and theatres featuring national and international sports and entertainment.

Families looking to move into the area can explore an array of schools, colleges and universities as well as a world-renowned medical center located within the eight counties.

A quick scan shows that 23 per cent of homes available in the region fall within the $100,000 – 199,000 price bracket. "The area really can offer something for everyone," said Linda Etter of Consulting Services of Harrisburg. "It's a nice place to raise a family, the cost of living allows you to live well and it's so conveniently located. As a recruiting company, we find it easy to recruit people to the region."

Mark Ritter of Members 1st Business Services said, "I am one of those fortunate people who live and work in Cumberland County and the Smart Market. The county meets the majority of my family's needs—from a great school district to a booming business of which I am a part. Cumberland County has enough to keep my family and I completely busy, from movies at the old theatre in Carlisle to go carts at the Sports Emporium in Carlisle."

The website also names the region's Top 50 employers.

Addressing closings & layoffs

SmartMarket recently received a grant from the Department of Labor and Industry to help avert potential regional closings and lay-offs, Robinson said. "Outreach specialists will visit at-risk companies, accompanied by service providers who specialize in revitalizing these companies," he noted.

A regional economic development/workforce development seminar is set for Spring, 2007, with invited participants to include businesses, workforce organizations, labor unions and economic development organizations.

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  Sperling's Bestplaces.net
- "One of the country's hottest and up and coming cities in population of 500,000 to 1 million".
  Money magazine
- 47th Most Wireless City in America
  Intel Corporation's Top 100 Unwired Cities in the USA (Intel, June 2005)

State Survey Strong on Growth
A recent PA survey found:

- Of 8,500 businesses surveyed, nearly 80 percent expect to grow within the next year, and 40 percent indicated they also would be hiring more employees.
- Since 2003 over 123,000 new companies have opened up across the Commonwealth.
- IBM Plant Location International ranks Pennsylvania as the number one destination for new projects in 2005 and the top location for manufacturing projects in all of the U.S. and Canada.

Copies of report at www.newpa.com; 1-866-466-3972; or call Fran Rodriguez, 717-295-3157 or 717-418-3771.

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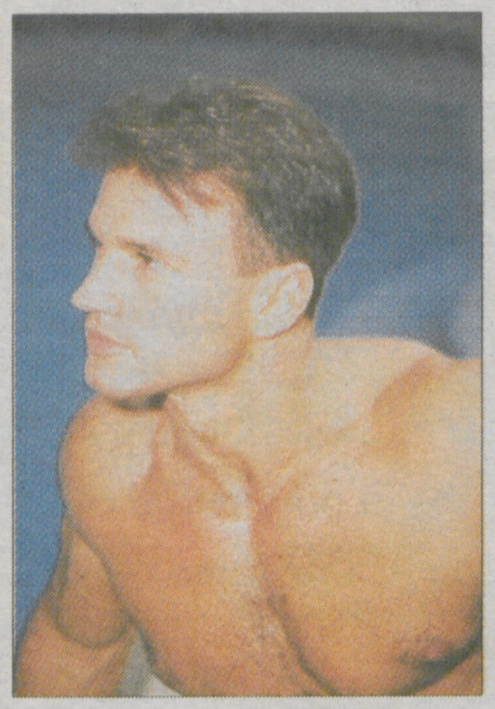

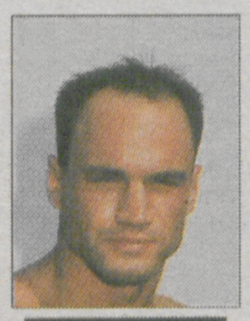

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By Kristen Richards

Gay is Very American

Judith Grahn's award-winning book "*Another Mother Tongue, Gay Words, Gay Worlds*," examines gay and lesbian history, our language and customs, and the suppression our civil rights. Grahn also explores the importance of gay life in various societies including American Indian Tribes.

The Unknown

Gay is very much American. Grahn studied anthropology of American Indian tribes indigenous to North America. Indian culture was renowned for its balance, harmony, spirituality and connection to the Earth. But moreover, customs amongst Indian tribes openly included gay people holding positions of high power. Amazingly, these positions required cross-dressing, homosexual relationships and sexually liberal attitudes. Women married women. Men married men. Gayness was described as something you were born with. Gayness was viewed as a quality or special gift. Tribes gave special names for gays, lesbians, hermaphrodites and the transgender.

Prevalence

Gay references to American Indians were uncovered in almost every tribe on the American continent, including Cherokee, Cheyenne, Seminole, Apache and Navajo, all familiar tribe names.

Ninety-nine tribes recorded history. Eighty-eight of those included references to gay history. Grahn also reports 20 specific references of lesbianism. Ironically, denial of homosexuality to anthropologists came from tribes located along the East Coast - those tribes closest to and having the most contact with White Christians, who severely punished and persecuted those for admitting gayness.

Strange Customs

In 1850, a white man wrote this about the Crow tribe: "Strange country this is, where males assume the dress and perform the duties of females, while women turn men and mate with their own sex." In the Crow tribe, cross-dressed men were responsible for cutting the tree used for the Sun dance ceremony. Cross-dressed men were typically medicine people, shamans of the tribe. In Crow, Illinois, Dakota and Cheyenne tribes, shamans were essential at high spiritual ceremonies and funerals.

Kuteni women dressed as men, often marrying women, holding high positions such as guide, warrior, prophet and peace mediator. Public ceremonies were often held to bond two lesbian women together, in the spirit of the god Doublewoman, "wila numpa."

In the Zunie tribe, cross-dressers, also known as a "man with two spirits," were considered the finest weavers and potters, a major source of income. At adolescence, they learned the dress, mannerisms, occupations and language of women. Male prophets in the Sioux tribe were called Winktes, and they dressed and lived as squaws and did not go to war. Having the gift of prophecies, Winktes could predict weather patterns, performed special healing ceremonies and gave particular secret names to newborns.

Suppression

After two centuries of white colonization amongst Indian tribes, gay culture was suppressed. Women experienced loss of power. Whites condemned gay behavior, carrying out hostilities and genocides against the tribes. They stole their land. Indians began to live repressed lives, feeling shame, disguising their true selves. Sodomy was considered "beastly," cross dressing was "discouraged" and gayness was "evil." Gay Indian culture never appeared in American history books. Hollywood portrayed American Indian men as straight, savage, brutal warriors. Indian women - squaws were shown as passive and submissive.

Open gayness and cross dressing in Indian tribes was quite prevalent. So was the importance of the roles held by queer people. American Indians embraced diversity. Mother Nature always has. So why can't certain humans?

Lesbian Notions:

The Intentional Tourist – Gay Markets Hot All Over

by Libby Post

You'd expect it from Boston, Provincetown, Key West, and Palm Springs, to name a few gay hot spots. But who would have ever thought that Bloomington, Ind., or Minneapolis, Minn. would get into the act?

What's the act? Marketing to gay and lesbian tourists. With the U.S. LGBT travel and tourism market worth $65 billion a year, even middle America wants to get into the act.

The folks at the Tempe, Ariz., Convention and Visitors Bureau have been marketing to the community for the past three years. Phoenix is getting ready to launch a campaign it has developed with the Greater Phoenix Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

Many of the cities jumping on the LGBT tourism bandwagon may be taking their cues from Philadelphia, which proved itself the City of Brotherly Love with not just a gay-friendly, but a gay-positive marketing campaign.

Entitled "Get Your History Straight and Your Nightlife Gay," the marketing campaign is estimated to have brought millions of dollars to Philly's local economy. According to the research department of the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation (GPTMC), we spend more money than our straight counterparts -$233 per overnight visit compared to their "general" overnighters, who only spend $101.

GPTMC spent $1 million - of taxpayer and hotel tax money - placing ads in LGBT publications and websites to lure us to Philly. Clearly, it worked, but not everyone's happy about it. State Representative Daryl Metcalfe (R) wants the funding to stop.

In a memo to his colleagues he wrote, "We should not ask constituents to fund behavior that is against their religious and moral beliefs." Well, if we all could only pick and choose where and how our tax dollars are used, we might not be in Iraq, there might be a cure for HIV, and all LGBT centers across the country would receive federal funding.

Unfortunately, we don't choose - that's something we leave up to our elected officials. Perhaps some things will change for the better given the new Congress.

Rep. Metcalfe threatened to wage a bud-

continued on page 11

Lesbian Notions continued

get battle during the 2006 legislative session. The session ended with the campaign's funding intact. While Metcalfe's diatribes didn't gain any traction in Pennsylvania - whose voters also tossed out U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum (R) last year - there is fear in some cities across the country that anti-LGBT rhetoric and political action could hurt their local economies.

Wisconsin's tourism industry - one of the state's biggest businesses - is concerned about a boycott, because the state that brought us Senator Joseph McCarthy also brought us a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. In August, before the vote, Doug Neilson, president of Visit Milwaukee, said that anything that discourages gays from visiting the state is a "concern."

And concerned he should be. U.S. foreign and domestic policies may very well impact LGBT travel to this country from abroad. A recent survey by Community Marketing, a consulting firm that specializes in LGBT tourism, found that 68 percent of gays and lesbians from outside the country said the Iraq war and the gay marriage bans were a deterrent to traveling here.

The same-sex marriage debate is also causing LGBT Canadians to think twice before crossing the border. With Canadians comprising the largest segment of foreign travelers to this country, our state-sanctioned homophobia is costing us foreign travel dollars.

It may also be costing us domestic tourism income, too, since 74 percent of U.S. lesbians and gay men polled by Community Marketing say they are more apt to visit a foreign country with a progressive political profile than to travel within our 50 states. For those of us who do stay stateside, a recent LGBT travel study conducted by the Travel Industry Association, Harris Interactive, and Witeck-Combs found that 48 percent of gay men and 47 percent of lesbians consider whether a destination within the U.S. is "gay-friendly" when making their travel decisions.

The study also found that the most important criterion is going to a destination that supports diversity and LGBT civil rights, and where visitors will be free from harassment. However, gay men are more likely to cite gay nightlife as an important factor in travel, whereas lesbians are much more concerned with personal safety, wanting a place "where I can hold my partner's hand in public."

"Gay-friendliness is frequently mentioned as a litmus test for how LGBT travelers and consumers favor destinations, travel brands, and services," said Bob Witeck at the National Press Club event that unveiled the study. "We find they are not looking for special treatment, but instead, expecting consideration and equal respect given all customers."

Witeck's right - we don't want special treatment. Just like straight people, we want to be marketed to, feel safe, and be respected. If more cities across the country go with the program regarding LGBT travel, they would not only see how green the rainbow flag can be, but they'd also see what wonderful people we really are.

Libby Post is the founding chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda and a political commentator on public radio, on the Web, and in print media. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

Whitaker Center AIDS Fundraisier Event continued

Greater Harrisburg AIDS Fund of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Proceeds from the Live Auction will be split 50/50 between the event and the Greater Harrisburg AIDS Fund.

"We're sure you'll recognize our well known auctioneers," DiSylvester says.

Starting at 6:30 pm, the cruise theme evening includes three floors of entertainment and food all centered around a trip on a 1930s luxury cruise liner.

Tickets: $85. Contact: 1-800-867-1550

Part 2: Queering the Immigration Debate

By Rita J. Verga, Esq.

This is the second of two articles about the connections between lgbtq rights and immigrant rights.

The fight for lgbtq rights and the fight for immigrant rights may appear to be quite different. But they are more closely connected than you might imagine. Take, for example, the struggle for access to driver's licenses.

In the wake of the September 11th attacks, concern over the security of identity documents grew dramatically. This has been reflected in the efforts of lawmakers at both the state and federal levels to produce more secure documents.

The most sweeping of these efforts is the federal REAL ID Act, which mandates changes in the ways identity documents, including driver's licenses and identity cards, are issued and used. State governments have also expanded ID requirements, as they prepare to implement the federal REAL ID Act in 2008. Although several of the new state and federal requirements are designed to deny licenses to undocumented immigrants, they have made it difficult, if not impossible, for many transgender people to obtain ID as well.

REAL ID requires states to abide by national standards for identity documents. To obtain ID under the law, applicants will be required to present a Social Security card, birth certificate, proof of residency, and proof that they are lawfully in the United States. Among other mandates, the law orders the establishment of electronic networks for authentication of documents like social security cards and birth certificates, and the creation of a nationwide database of every license holder. Vital personal information and biometric identifiers such as fingerprints will be stored in the database, which will be accessible by federal, state and local government employees. Many groups, including state officials and civil liberties advocates, are deeply concerned about REAL ID.

Although REAL ID has yet to take effect, the impact of expanded ID requirements and database cross-checking are already being felt in states like New York. In 2002, New York's then-Governor Pataki issued an executive order requiring driver's license applicants to submit a Social Security number or proof that they were not eligible for a Social Security number, and proof that immigrants were authorized to be in the United States. In 2004, to comply with the order, the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) ran a check of license-holders' Social Security numbers and found 600,000 discrepancies with a federal database. The DMV began sending out warning letters to licensees whose Social Security number did not match federal data.

Thousands of immigrants received letters challenging their license status, as did hundreds of transgender people. The reason why transgender people's data did not match was due to differing rules about changing sex designation at the states and federal levels.

Many transgender individuals seek to change their name and gender on driver's licenses after they transition from one gender identity to another. Currently, the process of changing sex designation on birth certificates or drivers' licenses varies from state to state. In most states, DMVs require a doctor's letter to change sex designation. In contrast, the Social Security Administration (SSA) requires proof of "genital surgery" to make the change. The lesser requirement at the state level has allowed many transgender people to change their gender on their DMV identification, so that they can work and go to school with identification that reflects their gender identity. However, many transgender people have not had "genital surgery," whether due to costs, medical

continued on page 13

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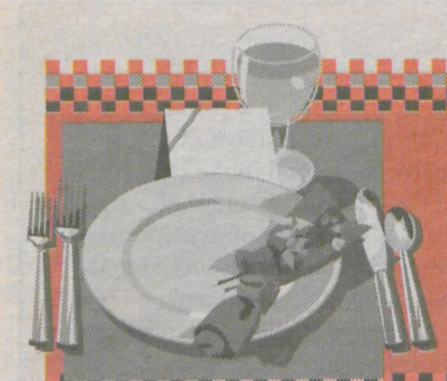


FOOD

8 Big Health Mistakes People Make

by Deb Bixler, Health & Prosperity Coach

Many daily choices voluntarily made may reduce your energy. In reverse order, here are the eight biggest health mistakes most people make.

Trusting the government insures food safety. Only you are responsible for what goes into your body.

Most people do not read the ingredients on food labels.

Most people buy food for what is not in the preparation rather than for what is in it. Buy foods based on the quality ingredients that are in the food.

Most people think it is okay to eat chemicals. When purchasing food, look for only recognizable real food ingredients.

Some people consume exorbitant quantities of excitotoxins, a group of food addit ives including MSG. Other excitotoxins include many natural and artificial flavors, colors, and sweeteners.

Many think they have to go to the gym to exercise. "Do Anywhere" exercises are more effective because they can be practiced for the rest of your life along with your daily activities.

People think their produce or vitamin supplement provides all the vitamins and minerals needed. Even people who eat fruits and veggies are not meeting their body's nutritional needs. Pill vitamins are not effective. Only bio-available vitamins provide your body with adequate nutrition.

Finally, the number one mistake is not drinking enough water. The single most important behavior to insure a long, healthy life is drinking plenty of plain water.

Deb Bixler, Health & Prosperity Coach, can be reached at www.FoodSmart.tv.

Whole, Living Foods at Broad Street Market

Having difficulty finding a cafe offering quality prepared whole, living (that means vegetarian, or raw, or organic) foods and drinks? Luna Pastel has taken the time to decipher the qualities their customers look for in food. Then they built a business around those needs.

In the summer of 2002, Myrriah Jannette envisioned a café offering varieties of vegetarian, raw, organic food and drinks. All food would be prepared in its natural state and no food heated above 145 degrees.

Jannette's niche is a market concerned with maintaining health. Late last year, Luna Pastel opened in Harrisburg's Broad Street Market, 1233 North Third Street.

Queering the Immigration Debate continued

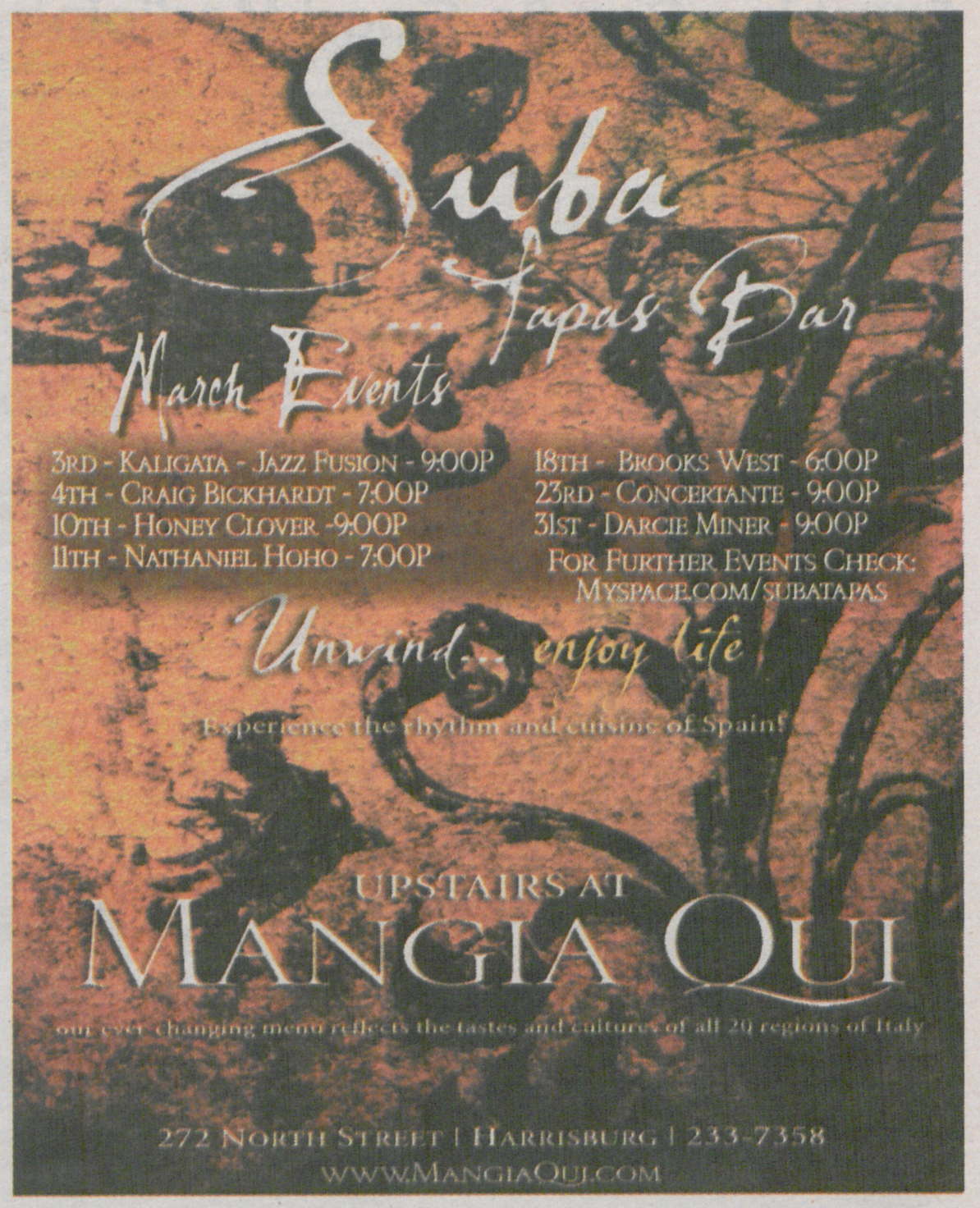
ineligibility or preference, so they cannot change their SSA sex designation.

New York exemplifies how REAL ID's cross-checking of state and federal databases will result in untold numbers of immigrant and transgender people being denied licenses. For transgender people, it will be even more difficult for individuals to change their post-transition name and gender on identity documents. Some immigrants and transgender people will be forced to drive without licenses or insurance. Moreover, no one without a REAL ID will be allowed to board a plane, open a bank account, collect Social Security payments, receive Medicaid, or access other government services.

The story is not entirely bleak. The impact of REAL ID on immigrant and transgender communities has raised the concern among elected leaders, in the media, and in the advocacy community. While the impact of this legislation is chilling, it has created important bridges between communities of immigrant rights, civil rights, and lgbtq rights advocates. New York not only serves as a model of REAL ID's detrimental impact, but also as model for coalition building between immigrant and lgbtq rights communities. These communities have been advocating in coalition to have New York's Governor Spitzer repeal discriminatory driver's license requirements, and to opt out of the harsh federal proof of identification laws.

For more information on transgender issues visit www.srlp.org *and* www.transgenderlawcenter.org.

Follow-up to Part 1 of Queering the Immigration Debate discussed an anti-immigrant ordinance recently passed in Hazelton, Pa. After going to press for its January-February issue, the Lancaster City Council unanimously passed a pro-immigrant resolution urging the rejection of "all immigration reform efforts that: criminalize individuals because of their immigration status; view immigration policy as a border-only security issue; and fail to recognize our common humanity and the values of our nation." Lancaster becomes the first city in the region to adopt such a resolution.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Sunshine Can Be Good Medicine

Can sunshine, often shunned by those who fear skin cancer and wrinkles, save more lives than it harms? Definitely says Boston University School of Medicine's Dr. Michael Holick, a professor of medicine, dermatology, physiology and biophysics.

For years healthcare professionals have advised consumers to avoid exposure to the sun or other sources of ultraviolet light. Now, an impressive body of scientifically validated evidence concludes that relatively brief exposure to sunshine or its equivalent several times weekly can help ward off chronic and even deadly diseases like osteoporosis, hypertension, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, depression and cancers of the colon, prostate, breast, lymphoma, lung, and, ironically, skin.

The reason for the sun's good effects is Vitamin D, known as "The Sunshine Vitamin."

Holick argues that controlled exposure to sunshine has such powerful health benefits because of Vitamin D. The main source of this essential nutrient is neither food nor dietary supplement, but sunlight when the skin is exposed to ultraviolet B (UVB) rays, as well as tanning machines.

UV Light Treats Osteoporosis

Holick's paper in the Journal of Gastroneurology **(OR Gastroenterology?)** summarizes a Case Study of a 61-year-old woman reporting to his Vitamin D Clinic. She was severely Vitamin D deficient, showing signs of significant bone decay consistent with osteoporosis.

"It was so severe when she came to my office she couldn't sit down, she was in tears because all her bones ached so much," Holick explained. Holick exposed the woman three times weekly to tanning bed light, following the recommended exposure schedule for her skin type. The woman's condition improved significantly.

"The bone pain over several months gradually dissolved, and the Vitamin D level increased by 700 %, just by simply being exposed to tanning bed radiation," Holick explained.

More than 25 million Americans suffer from osteoporosis, 20 million of whom are women.

How to Intelligently Use Sunscreens

Sunscreen is a good product when used intelligently. Sunscreens prevent sunburn.

It is not necessary to wear a sunscreen daily most days of the year in most climates to prevent sunburn. Daily use of sunscreens may cause more harm than good in the long run.

•A study in the New England Journal of Medicine showed that more than half of all Americans may be vitamin D deficient. Vitamin D deficiency is a leading cause of osteoporosis, a disease that leads to 1 million hip and bone fractures every year in elderly individuals. Encouraging daily use of sunscreens in any climate may contribute to this problem

•Vitamin D and sun exposure have been linked to lower incidence of many internal cancers, most notably breast cancer. A study by Northern California Cancer Center confirmed that women who receive regular sun exposure are 30 to 40 % less likely to develop breast cancer than those who don't .

•Wearing sunscreen in northern climates most of the year blocks your body's ability to produce vitamin D. UV exposure is the body's natural way, and the only reliable way, to produce vitamin D.

•A sunscreen with an SPF 8 blocks 95% of the skin's ability to make vitamin D, and an SPF 15 blocks 99%.

•While the tanning industry supports sunscreen use to prevent sunburn outdoors, it is improper to teach people to wear sunscreen during times of the year when one would not be able to sunburn outdoors. (SOURCE?)

Anti-Discrimination Law continued

A woman who identified herself as transsexual said she fears discrimination and violent harm in central Pennsylvania. A Penn State employee, Allison Subasic, said her office, a division of Student Affairs, often hears concerns about sexual-orientation-driven incidents on and off campus

Brian Kaleita, of College Township, asked whether a real problem exists. He cited a state document that shows 273 reports of bias-related incidents in the 2005-06 fiscal year. In 19 incidents, sexual minorities are listed as victims.

Glassman said the document is a specialized report and reflects only a fraction of the incidents reported to his agency. The HRC receives almost 40,000 complaints a year, many of them from people who do not want to make their reports into full-blown cases, he said.

Crimes of intimidation, by nature, discourage victims from reporting, Glassman said. He said new laws could improve reporting practices. But "discrimination is not, and should not be, a numbers game," Glassman said. "One is one too many."

DJ Barry B & His Leading Ladies

The leading ladies of music dominate the charts and clubs with their hot dance hits.

Gwen Stefani

Gwen Stefani is still on top with her creative hit "Wind It Up."

Beyonce

The multi-talented Beyonce with her solo career is leaving others in the dust and is still tearing it up with "One Night Only" from the Dream Girls soundtrack.

Rihanna

The Barbado's native Rihanna is still on a ride with the single "We Ride".

Christina Aguilera

Christina Aguilera is on top and not hurting with her hit "Hurt". So what else is happening in the world of music you might ask? Here are somethings I can tell you.

Shakira

Climbing up the charts is the hit "Illegal" by Shakira. This mellow ballad backed up by the gifted legendary guitarist Carlos Santana is not a favorite of mine. Instead take the dance remix by legendary remixer Johnny Vicious and you have a pumped up version of the song you can live with. Giving the song a strong beat and picking up the pace gives this song some added life in the dance clubs.

Joi Cardwell

Joi Cardwell makes an impressive appearance back into the dance charts with the single "Believe In Us". While she has been around awhile you might not have heard of her before. Not being too lucky with radio usually she makes her mark in the music world in the dance clubs. Joi has sort of an underground following mostly from the larger east coast clubs such as New York. This time around "Believe In Us" is sort of a refreshing song she lays out for the clubs. The song is full of vocals and the song just flows. It is sure to be a floor filling song for many dance clubs.

Jody Watley

Remember the two hit wonder Jody Watley from the 80's. Jody had the hits "Looking For A New Love" and "Don't You Want Me". Thinking she can make a comeback after all this time she releases her own version of Madonna's song "Borderline". It is hard to do a cover version from someone who is some what of a music ledged. Jody's version some how falls flat and is too slow, it drags on and on. Better luck next time Miss Watley.

Danielle Bollinger

Hitting the charts once again is Michigan's own Danielle Bollinger with her single "You'll Always Have Me". Danielle has made her mark this past year in the music world from club to radio. She has even surprised me by making me like just about every single she has released. You may remember the huge club hit a few years ago called "Kiss The Sky" and more recently "When The Broken Hearted Love Again". "You'll Always Have Me" is yet another upbeat smooth rolling dance tune that only makes her hit list bigger and better.

Laura Elena

Someone new to watch out for is 22 year old Laura Elena of the group Barcera. Their first chart topping dance hit is "Secret Of Love". Laura has a catchy tune with happy clear vocals that stand out over top of the music. It is kind of a simple song but you might find yourself starting to sing along with after hearing it a few times.

Club Diva Abigail

One last artist to jump back onto the music chart is the one name club diva Abigail. Having a string of hits over the past several years she has not broken out into the mainstream as of yet. Boosting her popularity mostly in the big cities she has kept turning out club songs and making Pride festival appearances. The song "Lay Down" is a great dance track full of strong beats and powerful vocals. While in the past Abigail has had some fluffy poppy songs this time around she gets a little more demanding, heavy and serious. This is a good song to track down if you like club music.

Check back once again in the next issue to see what is happening in DJ Barry B's World Of Music.

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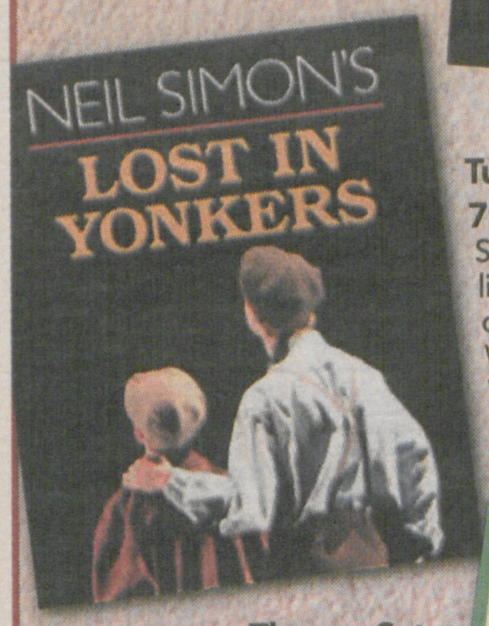

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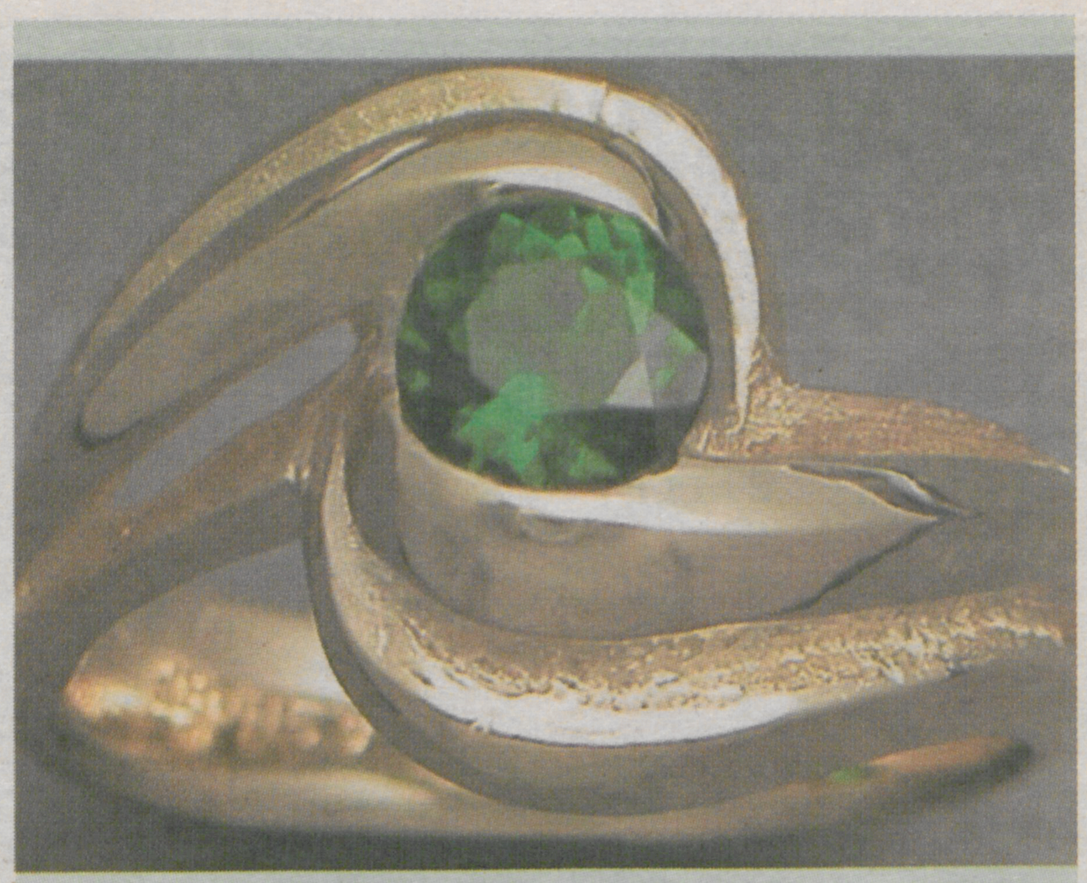

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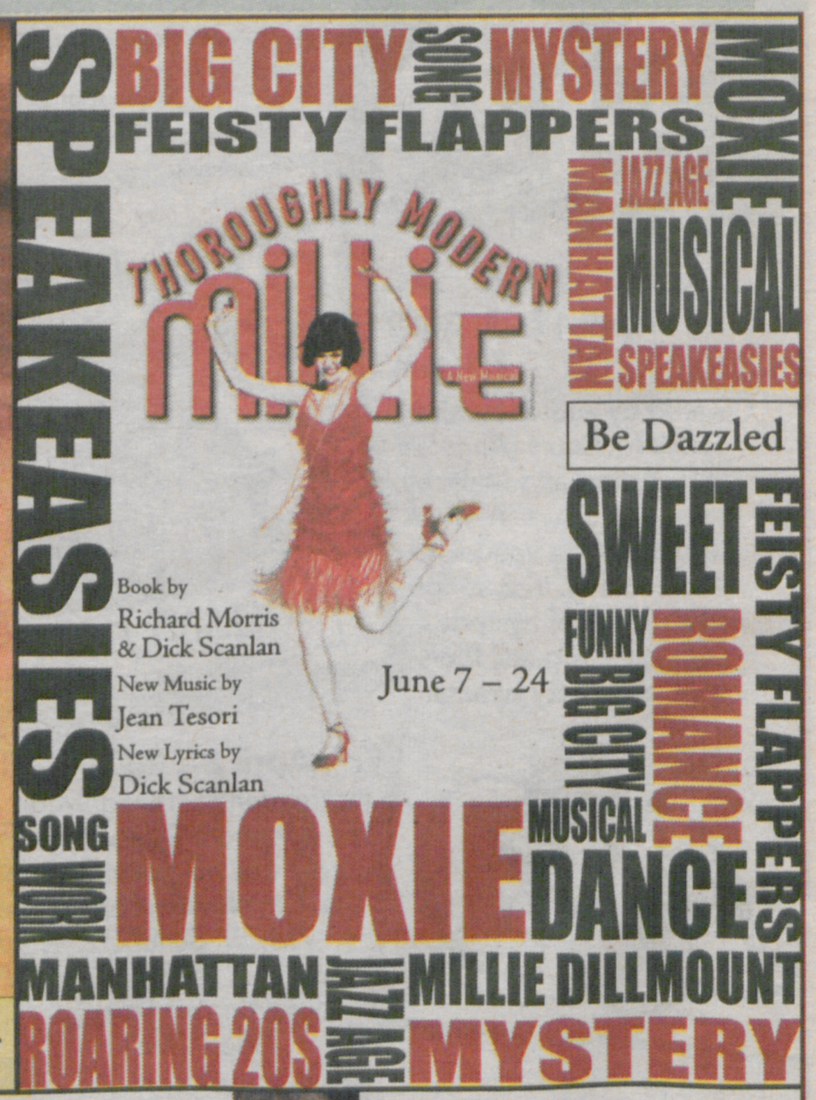

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MEN'S HEALTH

Warmer Weather Requires Proper Hydration

By Mike Pawlikowski, LA Fitness, Camp Hill

With warmer weather here, it's time to reap the benefits of the great outdoors. It's time for fresh air and warm sun. Keep in mind the importance of stretching both before and after exercising. Also recognize that proper and adequate hydration is the key to peak performance in and out of the gym.

Tips for keeping hydrated:

1. Keep a readily available source of water on hand or nearby. While there are many beneficial sports drinks out there, water remains the best source of hydration to replenish fluids lost from exercise. Our bodies are continually demand fluids throughout the day. Make hydration part of your daily regimen. Increase your intake of water. Unlike other liquids, water encourages the purging of impurities and toxins naturally built up in the body.

2. Avoid carbonated and sugary beverages. They contain additives that deprive the body of needed elements. Caffeinated beverages are stimulants providing added "kick" but they act as diuretics. A diuretic uses up water in the body by forcing frequent urination that depletes nutrients needed to properly function. Instead of chugging soda or iced tea, grab bottled spring or purified water. There are new waters that contain certain vitamins and minerals to boost wellness. Waters containing vitamins and nutrients should not be confused with fruit flavored waters that may say "sugar-free with zero calories." Those beverages nay have zero calories, but you are trading those calories for chemical additives that provide taste. A suggestion to add flavor: Add lemon to your water. Natural lemon wedges are recommended, not lemon juice from a concentrate that contains preservatives.

3. Water with added flavoring should be enjoyed sparingly. Take interest in the contents of your drinks. If the label says high fructose corn syrup, that's other words for "sugar." Diet soft drinks contain chemicals the body does not process. The chemicals are stored by the body as toxins and may aid your gaining weight in fat.

4. If you must have a daily latte or fancy beverage, moderation is the key. It is better to drink one sugar-based soda daily than to drink a diet beverage. Remember, the body processes sugar naturally, but chemicals found in diet sodas are toxins, not sugars. If you must add sweeteners to your drink and insist on sugar substitutes, grab Splenda, the only substitute derived from sugar and approved for diabetics.

5. Be kind to your kidneys. Your kidneys filters all ingested fluids. Do not drink too much liquid and overwork your kidneys. Pure and simple water cleanses and detoxifies the body. When making the social scene with a "few drinks," be sure to have enough water to drink when you "call it a night." Alcohol deprives the brain of the much needed oxygen provided by water. Lots of water also reduces a "serious hangover."

6. When we sweat, our bodies are not only losing fluids, they are also purging toxins through our pores. Drinking water regularly leads to a better complexion and skin-tone. Think of water as a spa treatment in a bottle.

Have a healthy Spring with lots of water.

Rock the Sisterhood Hosts 3-Day Event

Rock the Sisterhood, a three-day event honoring women, is slated for March 8-10.

Presented by Women, Create! and Harrisburg Area Community College, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Rock the Sisterhood, will be held at Harrisburg Area Community College, Harrisburg campus.

Event sponsors are Mangia Qui, Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, and Art Depot. Media sponsors are Central PA Holistic Health Networker and WITF FM 89.5.

March 8

The three day event starts on Thursday, March 8 with the unveiling of an art installation piece and Women, Create's Queen of 'Arts Gala Award Ceremony (pre-registration and fee).

March 9

On March 9, RTS presents a "Rock Out" show featuring a film screening with Emmy award-winning filmmaker Andrea Campbell, Belly Dancing performance with Jeri Zeigler, live music with Mantra-Pop Diva, Robin Renee, Women's Drumming Orchestra led by Tammi Waffle with an Expressive Dance performance by Lara Vracarich and more. Show starts at 7pm. $5 donation. Cash bar.

March 10

On March 10, RTS presents a free full day of workshops for women. Registration and programs begin at 9am. Workshops include:

- "Music and Identity: Desert Island Discs" with WITF's Ellen Hughes
- "Power of Women's Creative Traditions in Family & Community" with folklorist and Vice President for the Institute for Cultural Partnerships, Amy Skillman
- "Standing Naked on my Diary" with Harrisburg City Poet Laureate, Iya Isoke

Also on March 10, girls 8-13 are invited to participate in "Girl Power" workshops. Workshops include:

- Narrative Pantomime and Improv with Leah Carper
- West African Drumming with Hope Kopf

Plus many more workshops.

Organizers describe the event as an occasion marked by women's groups around the world. Comemorated by the United Nations, International Women's Day is designated by many countries as a national holiday. When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.

Contact: Susan Murphy Kiskis, Rock the Sisterhood, 717-318-4433; rockthesisterhood@hotmail.com; http://www.womencreate.org

Renaissance Spring Gala March 17

On Saturday, March 17, 2007, experience an evening of authentic Irish Cuisine & Karaoke at central PA's most unique entertainment complex, Bube's Brewery in Mt. Joy, PA. Social Hour and hors d'oeurves begins at 6pm followed by a bountiful St. Pattie's Day feast at 7pm. The evening also includes a Silent Auction & 50/50 Drawing at 8pm. Entertainment at 8:30pm. $30 for a dinner/show ticket. To reserve tickets, contact Ellen Davidson: ceedee578@aol.com or P.O. Box 531 Elizabethtown, PA 17022. Proceeds benefit Renaissance Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter.

Need Funds for Commission

Harrisburg Men's Chorus Commissions "The Ultimate Show Tune"

Harrisburg Men's Chorus recently commissioned Eric Lane Barnes to work on "The Ultimate Show Tune." The commissioned work will be featured in their 20th Anniversary Concerts June 22 & 23.

HMC began singing Barnes's music a few years ago to great applause and bursts of laughter. Recently, the chorus performed Barnes' For the Straight Guy (a poignant-yet-funny pop ballad that assures the heterosexuals in the audience they are safe and respected), Gloria (Gregorian Chant that descends to a sinful do-wop), Caffeine Polka (caffeine withdrawal meets Lawrence Welk), I Do (50's style tune that proclaims the sanctity of marriage no matter what gender), Middle Child (a traditional Spiritual offering sympathy to Jan Brady) and Drama Queen (portrait of the artist as a young princess).

"I've begun work on The Ultimate Show Tune. I'm having a blast. It's going to be a really fun piece," Barnes says. Anyone familiar with Barnes' music knows he writes great melodies and chortlingly funny lyrics.

Barnes is the author of the critically acclaimed Fairy Tales which received two Jeff Citations (presented annually to honor excellence in professional theater productions in the Chicago area), three After Dark Awards, and three Bistro Awards.

His scores and scripts include Tuck Everlasting, Simple Jim and His Four Fabulous Friends, Scary Home Companion, The Amazing Bone, and Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel which just finished a two-year tour with TheatreWorksUSA. These works enjoyed successful runs in the U.S. and abroad including New York City, London, Chicago, Houston and Seattle. His most recent creation, The Stops, won Best Musical and three other awards at the Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Awards.

Barnes has written choral works on commission for such groups as The Esoterics; The Turtle Creek Chorale; The New York City Gay Men's Chorus; The Quire; One Voice Charlotte; Seattle Men's Chorus; Seattle Women's Chorus; Sound Circle; The Cincinnati Gay Men's Chorus; The Lexington Gay Men's Chorus; The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington D.C.; Sing Out! Toronto; Unison Lesbian and Gay Singers; and The Windy City Gay Chorus.

HMC is raising funds to pay for the commission. To help, contact Tim at 717-433-0184.

Reasons to Visit Philadelphia

MARCH 2007

February 7-March 11
ENEMIES, A LOVE STORY
Set in 1949 New York, The Wilma Theater presents the story of a Holocaust survivor who finds himself suddenly involved with three women—his current wife, a married woman with whom he is having a passionate affair and his long-vanished wife whom he thought was killed during the war. (215) 546-7824, http://www.wilmatheater.org/

February 9-24
PORGY AND BESS
Join the residents of the legendary Catfish Row in Gershwin's triumph of drama and song performed by the Opera Company of Philadelphia at the Academy of Music. (215) 732-8400, http://www.operaphilly.com/

March 1-4
ANNIE
The timeless tale of a feisty orphan comes to The Kimmel Center and gives a whole new generation the chance to experience this classic musical about never giving up hope. (215) 893-1999, www.kimmelcenter.org/broadway

March 4-11
PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW
The Pennsylvania Convention Center is the site of the region's annual gardening celebration, featuring contests, special events and more than 140 vendors. The theme for 2007 is "Legends of Ireland." (215) 988-8899, http://www.theflowershow.com/

March 20-April 8
SPAMALOT
The Tony Award-winning musical of 2005 based on the screenplay of Monty Python and the Holy Grail makes its way to The Kimmel Center for a limited engagement. (215) 731-3333, www.kimmelcenter.org/broadway

March 24-25
PHILADELPHIA FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS SHOW
Held at the Philadelphia Naval Yard, this show is nationally acclaimed as the finest exhibition of one-of-a-kind home furnishings, including innovative contemporary designs and adaptations of classical styling. (215) 832-0060, http://www.pffshow.comookandthecook.com/

APRIL 2007

April 5-18
PHILADELPHIA FILM FESTIVAL
This 10-day festival showcases the best in independent and foreign cinema in theaters throughout Philadelphia. (267) 765-9700, http://www.phillyfests.com/

April 11-May 13
THE LIFE OF GALILEO
The Wilma Theater presents a show about reason, religion and power in a world in which power is concealed as faith. (215) 546-7824, http://www.wilmatheater.org/

April 14-17
PHILADELPHIA ANTIQUES SHOW
Dealers from across the U.S. gather at the 33rd Street Armory to display their unique finds. (215) 387-3500, http://www.philaantiques.com/

April 26-28
THE PENN RELAYS
High school and college track stars compete at Franklin Field during the oldest collegiate meet in the nation. (215) 898-6145, http://www.thepennrelays.com/

April 29-May 5
PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL
Jugglers, folk singers, puppeteers and acrobats from around the world delight young audiences at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. (215) 898-3900, http://www.pennpresents.org/

April 30-May 6
EQUALITY FORUM
A week-long festival that celebrates the cultural and political legacy of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community includes more than 70 events by 75 regional, national and international organizations. (215) 732-3378, http://www.equalityforum.com/

Emerge 2007: Philly's Lesbian Party Scene Gets a Jolt

Emerge, the Philadelphia LGBT charity dance event created by women for women in 2006, returns to the scene May 4th through May 6th breaking boundaries for ladies parties across the nation. Produced by the Sapphire Fund during Equality Forum weekend Emerge 2007 expands on multiple levels. Based on the success of last year's main event, Emerge 2007 welcomes a celebrity hostess, a bigger venue, and special performances to create a unique, unparalleled party experience.

Kim Stolz, MTVU VJ, Elite Model, and former America's Next Top Model contestant will host Emerge on May 4th. Kim Stolz has been an active supporter of LGBT causes including the Out 100 Awards, which honor annual significant contributions to gay life. Also attending will be Brazilian Milenna Saraivo, co-star of Bravo's hit reality show Work Out. Milenna Saraivo who will also be appearing in the upcoming show America's Top Trainers, is a talented artist, and a top Los Angeles personal trainer.

This year Emerge will call Philly's Trocadero Theatre, a restored 1940s burlesque theatre from with a 1,200 person capacity, home for its main event.

Performing at Emerge 2007 are the daring darlings of burlesque, the Hellcat Girls. For the past four years, the Hellcat Girls have pushed the envelope of live burlesque entertainment with a spectrum of classic, neo, and rock n' roll striptease and cabaret. Spinning at the May event will be DJs Melissa and Erica the Baraness. To wrap up the weekend experience, Emerge will throw a closing party at Bleu Martini on Sunday, May 6th. Women can mingle over delicious drinks and appetizers while indulging in the sounds of DJs Jivey and JD.

All proceeds from the weekend will benefit the Linda Creed Breast Cancer Foundation, William Way Community Center, AIDS Law Project, and Philadelphia Family Pride. To find out more information on Emerge please visit www.emergephilly.com.

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Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs
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at The Franklin Institute
February 3rd – September 30th

Philly Black Gay Pride
April 26th – 29th

Equality Forum and Blue Ball Weekend
April 30th – May 6th

PA · Philadelphia Gay Tourism Caucus · GPTMC Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing gophila.com · IGLTA

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THEATRE ROUNDUP

Dutch Apple Theatre

"At 12, I started taking the train into New York City to see shows," says accomplished stage director Seth Reines. He will direct Broadway's smash hit "The Full Monty" at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre until April 7. Nominated for a 2001 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album, the original cast recording is available on RCA Victor.

"The play has a gay couple and an older woman," Reines says, noting that the real story of the play is what people, these six men in particular, do to survive. "The two men who play the gay eventual gay couple are straight and have just come off the national tour of Oklahoma," he says.

Based on the record-breaking 1997 Academy Award-nominated hit of the same name, ***THE FULL MONTY*** is the raucous and heartfelt story of six unemployed steelworkers who go to great lengths to make some cash and help out a friend in trouble. When a local male strip show – whose dancers venture down to their G-strings – is a hit with the local women, the cash-strapped factory workers figure they can cash in big time if they go the Full Monty.

Four-time Tony Award® winning writer Terrence McNally adapted the screen hit for the stage and added his own unique brand of American comedy to the story. "The show is about friendship, about being a parent," said McNally. "It's also about an image obsessed society that says you have to look like Brad Pitt. This show says quite the opposite. It celebrates everybody for exactly who they are."

THE FULL MONTY is directed by Seth Reines who previously directed the show at the Prather Florida theatre, the Broadway Palm in Fort Myers and at the oldest regional theatre, the Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, Illinois. At the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, Mr. Reines directed the hits Miss Saigon, Camelot, My Fair Lady, Carousel and Man of La Mancha.

Tickets: 717-898-1900 or dutchapple.com. Dinner & Show tickets $42- $48 with a limited number of show only tickets available $25.

Strand-Capitol

Nobodies of Comedy

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Sunday, April 29, 2007 - 7:30pm

The producers of LAF (Laughter Arts Festival) have carefully selected some of the best "unknown" comedians, and rolled them into one hilarious show. NO over-hyped stars, NO outrageous salaries ... just hysterical comics and a great night out with guaranteed laughs that will give you NO time to breathe!! Don't miss this chance to see tomorrow's stars of comedy today.

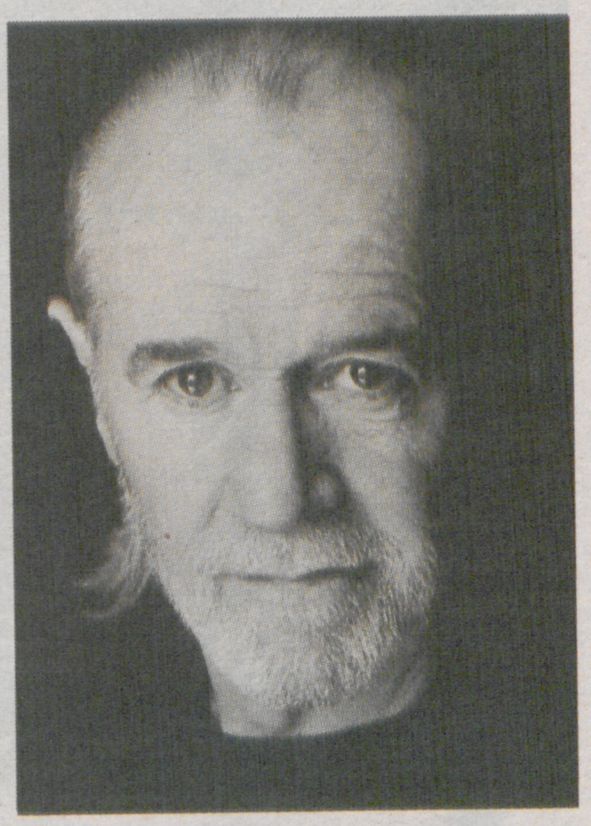
Hershey Theatre Presents The Irish Rovers

The Irish Rovers start central Pennsylvania's St. Patrick's Day weekend off with a bang on stage at Hershey Theatre March 15, 8 PM. These international ambassadors of Irish music have charmed and entertained people around the world, and continue to delight audiences with their exciting stage shows. 2007 marks the 44th anniversary of The Irish Rovers.

The Irish Rovers have never lost their timeless ability to deliver a rollicking, rousing performance of good cheer, that will soon have you singing and clapping along. And as an added bonus to the Hershey concert, one lucky ticket buyer will win a trip for two to Ireland, with the winner being drawn at intermission!

Tickets: $25-$48 at (717) 534-3405 or www.hersheytheatre.com.

George Carlin at Hershey Theatre March 18



Award-winning comedian George Carlin hits Hershey Theatre March 18, 7 PM. Carlin, a revolutionary stand-up comedian on social commentary, performs 90 concerts each year around the country, selling nearly a quarter of a million tickets.

For more than four decades, Carlin has used his razor-sharp humor to point out hypocrisy in people's actions and words. Carlin is refreshingly forthright, cogently making points that few in his audience would ever dare to think, much less express. He is not only distinguished by his choice of subject matter, but also his unique viewpoints and his "in your face" delivery.

In November 2005, Carlin had the premiere of his 13th HBO comedy special entitled *GEORGE CARLIN: LIFE IS WORTH LOSING*. A DVD and CD of the show followed in 2006, bringing his album total to 25, including compilations and books on tape. Carlin's third book, *When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?* was published in 2004; it was number two on New York Times Best Sellers List and also had the honor of being banned by Wal-Mart. Carlin's previous books include the New York Times Best Sellers *Brain Droppings* and *Napalm & Silly Putty*. Carlin has also appeared in eleven feature films.

Hershey Theatre, March 18, 7 PM. Tickets $40 & $48 at 717-534-3405 or www.hersheytheatre.com.

York Little Theater Presents Wit

York Little Theater presents their second Bravo Series installment, an original adaptation of Margaret Edson's Wit. The Pulitzer Prize winning play examines the emotional nuances of Dr. Vivien Bearing, a terminally ill cancer patient, as she struggles to cultivate hope among constantly diminishing opportunity. Impressing upon its audience bountiful insight, Wit insists that we are never too old to come-of-age or at any time beyond personal discovery.

A local cast offsets Dr. Bearing's strained, scientific approach to life by showcasing the carefree joys of the human journey. Chris Ausherman makes a welcomed return to the York Little Theater stage as Dr. Vivien Bearing. Choosing to adhere to a strict method, Chris will be shaving her head for the role. Her performance is dedicated to her sister-in-law Judy Ausherman who lost her valiant fight to ovarian cancer in 2001. The Robert E. Smith Blackbox Theater offers the public a uniquely intimate setting to share in this life-affirming experience.

Runs March 2-4 and March 8-11, 8 PM, Sunday Matinees 3 PM. Call 854-5715.
Located at 27 S. Belmont Street, York, PA.

Strand-Capitol Offers Cinema, Dance, Drama

Capitol Cinema Sundays

(All films @ 3 & 7:30 pm, except where noted)
Mar. 4 - *Little Children* (R)
Mar. 11 - *Lawrence of Arabia* (in 70mm) (PG) 2:00pm
Mar. 18 - *Volver* (R)
Mar. 25 - *La Dolce Vita* (NR) 2:00 & 7:30pm

What's Ahead

The Pirates of Penzance - March 2
Joffrey Ballet - March 7
Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat - March 12
Lost In Yonkers - April 3
Jesus Christ Superstar - May 3

Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center
50 North George Street, York, PA 17401
Box Office: 717-846-1111

Special Gala April 20

Open Stage of Harrisburg Presents The Fantastics

The Fantastics is the world's longest-running musical, reigning supreme Off-Broadway for 42 years and 17,162 performances. Nearly 12,000 different productions have been staged since it first opened on May 3, 1960 - before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon and before Woodstock. This sunny, funny musical has charmed audiences since Dwight Eisenhower was president.

Open Stage of Harrisburg celebrates production of the show with a special Opening Night Gala benefit performance April 20th that includes a reception with the cast of the show. Tickets are $50 each. Call 717-214-2787. Season Ticket holders call 232-6736 to receive a special Opening Night Gala offer for subscribers only.

The Fantastics is a sweet and clever little musical that features just eight actors. A piano and harp comprise the "orchestra." But there is nothing lacking in this timeless story of star-crossed lovers that has become a part of our national culture. Each generation from bobby-soxers to flower children to baby boomers to cyber kids have embraced the universality of the show.

Runs April 20 through May 13, Th.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun.2:30 p.m. Sponsored by Pennsylvania State Education Association. Pay-what-you-will performances April 26, May 3 and May 10, admission on a space available basis.

March 31 at Allen Theatre

Filmmaker Mark Freed Screens Film Festival

Mark Freed, Central Dauphin East High graduate, and a senior in Film & Television Program at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts screens "Letters from Film School" March 31, 6pm at Annville's Allen Theatre. The 60-minute student film festival features about an hour of short films that Freed and his crew have worked on recently.

Currently, Freed and his crew are working on "The Egg," his NYU thesis film, based on a Sherwood Anderson short story. Anderson was a newspaper proprietor in Virginia with William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway among his protégés. Freed's adaptation of Anderson's popular piece is a touching comedy about a man, Grover Jr., who desperately wants his deceased father to be remembered as a noble man. Eventually, Junior soon realizes that his father's hilarious and endearing shortcomings are what made him great. "We start shooting early June in central Pennsylvania," Freed says, adding that he plans to submit the film to both the Tribeca and Sundance. The film is guaranteed entry into NYU's First Run Festival, the largest student film festival in the world.

continued on page 29

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~The River Weekly, Fort Myers, FL

February 22
to
April 7, 2007

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PFLAG of Central PA "Here for Everyone"

By Sharon Muzio, Alta View Wellness Center

PFLAG or Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is active in ways unfamiliar to many central Pennsylvania readers. Board members feel that many individuals in the glbt community do not know the full breath and scope of the volunteer organization. Usually, folks think the only activity is support for families with gay members at monthly meetings. Their mission is so much more.

The organization began nationally in 1972, started by the mother of a gay son, Jeanne Manford, who marched in the New York Gay Pride Parade along side of her child. Afterward, many glbt people asked her to speak with their parents, to help them gain acceptance from family and friends. Moved by what was asked of her, she began the first PFLAG.

Our local chapter was founded in 1978 and is a strong advocacy network for members of our community, their families and friends. Board members want everyone to know that they are not only in existence to be supportive of parents of glbt people but that they are supportive of our community itself.

PFLAG members work in various ways to get the message out to the world in general "glbt people are good people". They educate a misinformed society.

Several members have spoken at local collages and universities, high schools, faith communities, and community gathering places. They have been seen on TV and heard on radio and quoted in newspapers as advocating for the glbt community and their families.

The organization has also spearheaded letter writing campaigns, spoken directly with religious leaders and politicians about glbt issues, including marriage rights, adoption right, and health care benefits. One PFLAG board member was the recipient of the 2003 FAB Award along with our Central VOICE founder Frank Pizzoli.

They group has a well-stocked lending library of glbt-related materials, and have donated books to several colleges and universities, including Dickinson and Shippensburg.

Teen suicide is ranked very high amongst gay teens. PFLAG hopes their educational efforts will prevent even one unnecessary death. Following the suicide of Jim Wheeler, the organization spoke with faculty at Cedar Crest High School about tolerance, acceptance and gay bashing.

The group also participated in Mechanicsburg Area High School Diversity Day, where several board members spoke with students about acceptance of glbt classmates.

Common Roads Affiliation

PFLAG has begun an affiliation with Common Roads, a glbt youth group for ages 14-24. PFLAG offers support for the parents of the individuals attending Common Roads programs. Members agree that many parents go into "the closet" when their kid comes out. Understandably, parents fear isolation, judgment and loss of friends. They are dealing with their own prejudices too.

One board member speaks of a devastated Cher when her daughter Chastity came out.

In her autobiography, Cher reveals that although she was comfortable having gay friends, associates, and fans, having a gay child unnerved her. Cher is typical of many parents has helped.

PFLAG extends an invitation to attend meetings and get involved in outreach and advocacy. They also hope more parents of glbt teens will consider attending meetings.

PFLAG meets the third Monday of each month 7-9 pm at Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, 300 East Simpson Street. Attendance is confidential. You will not be outed by your affiliation. No church affiliation is promoted. No fees are collected. Annual membership is $30, but attendees do not have to be members to attend. Monetary donations accepted. Information, www.pflagcentralpa.org; 717-728-8800.

Two guilty in Ohio

By Marlene Lang

The Associated Press reported on Jan. 24 that two Ohio elections workers had just been convicted of rigging the recount in the 2004 presidential election. That's Jan. 24, 2007. This just happened. These were felony convictions that may be punished with prison sentences between six and 18 months, at a Feb. 26 sentencing hearing. Did you know about this? Neither did I, until 24 hours after the fact, and that only because I am a self-appointed hound of all things political and possibly shady. What doesn't make the news – at least widely – is often more interesting than what does. The AP story was picked up by the one international publication by the week's end. I asked around, just in case I'd missed it on Fox News. An informal office survey – of news types, too. Nope. No one had heard. So much for the liberal media slanting the news. A guilty verdict in an edge-of-your-seat swing state, whose electoral votes would have changed the outcome of the election, and where counts were questioned? And re-questioned? I guess it's old news. Maybe it doesn't matter if our sitting president gained his position rightly – and legally – or not, since his term is nearly up. The consensus seems to be, let bygones be bygones, and don't get caught up with nutcases and their conspiracy theories. The implications of knowing what really happened, not just in 2004 but in 2000 as well, are frightening and unbearable to Americans, even to the many who were on the losing side of the last two presidential races. If our elections can be rigged, rifled, bribed and bought out from under our noses, are we better off than those we nations we are busy rescuing from oppressors and tyrants and corruption? Maybe we need an Orange Revolution in America. Ukraine's 2004 election was judged a sham by freedom-loving Ukrainians. That nation's Supreme Court ordered not a recount, but a revote, in December 2004 as masses gathered in a peaceful protest in the capital city of Kiev, draped in orange. We must face this little problem: There is another election coming up, and another after that. What kind of shinannigans will surface this time? If we admit the last two were dirty, we will have to look for more dirt, and that's such a dirty job. And it would be so inconvenient to take time off work and protest, like Ukrainians. Yet credible investigations of what happened in 2004 cannot be ignored. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. compiled an extensively documented case that the election was, in fact, hijacked by Bush. The article was published in Rolling Stone earlier this year. Kennedy asserted that 350,000 voters were either kept from voting or cast votes that were not counted in Ohio alone. If this is true, as Kennedy argues and documents for those who care about such onerous dirt, the election would have tipped in favor of Sen. John Kerry. Old news? Maybe, except for the court of law that last week convicted those election workers – in Ohio's most populous county. They were accused of sorting through ballots in a closed room before the recount, hand picking ballots that would not "cause discrepancies," the AP reported. The prosecutor in the case said Kerry gained only 17 votes in the recount, and Bush lost six, in their precinct of the county. The AP did not explain that only 3 percent of the votes were to be re-counted, but that 3 percent is to be randomly picked. That's why the workers might do time. You can't sift for the ballots you like. Also, if hand-counted results vary too widely from voting machine tallies, a second random count is to be done. If the second count also looks funky, there is to be a recount of all precincts in the county. This never happened, apparently because of the pre-sorted recount. Much of Kennedy's report focused on the gaping and unexplained discrepancies between the exit polls in Ohio and the actual vote counts. The differences were too large to explain by any statistical stretch, he asserted. The Kennedy report was widely ignored – if

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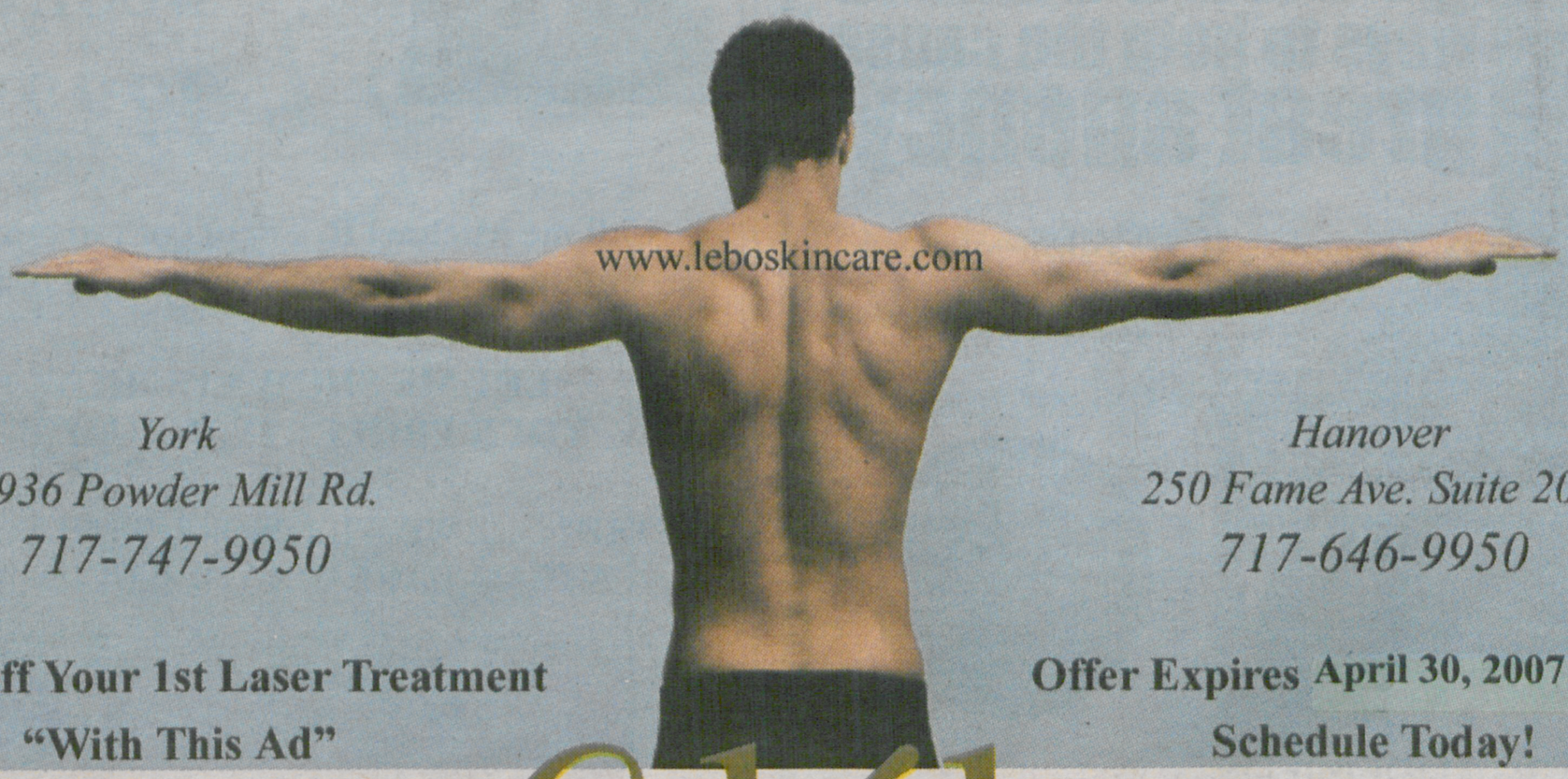

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She Likes Girls

These six exceptionally well-produced lesbian movies tell the stories of lesbian lives: from sweet love to poignant coming out. Highlights include the magical modern lesbian fairy tale, *The Piper*; Meredyth Wilson's rock n' roll tale of teen tomboy longing *Shugar Shank*; and the smash hit sexy romance, *Cosa Bella* starring drop-dead goggeous Stephanie Szostak (The Devil Wears Prada) and the lovely Alexie Gilmore (Find Love). Plus: a lesbian Black Power activist tries to hold her relationship together in the sharp period drama, *Sarang Song*; girl stalks girl in *The Uninvited*; and *This Boy* is, of course, a girl.

On Comcast Cable

Kath & Kim: Silly Scenes from the Class Struggle Down Under

By John Barnett

Marriage. Children. Lifestyles and lawns.

Such is the world of *Kath & Kim,* a comedy about the lives and loves of a style- and class-challenged mother and daughter in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia. *Kath & Kim* shows weekly at 9 pm, Fridays, and repeats at 3 pm, Sundays; the program airs on the Sundance Channel, Channel 165 on Comcast Digital Cable in the Harrisburg area.

Kath (Jane Turner) and Kim (Gina Riley) reside in the fictional 'burb of Fountain Lakes, where they deal with the dull inanities of daily life and small-scale domestic dramas. Will Kath's second marriage survive the return of her first husband? Will Brett be the father of Kim's baby? More importantly, are they going to the mall? And what are they going to wear?

While *Kath & Kim* has the plot of a soap opera, it's really a broadly played and quite funny comedy about Mum and Daughter's tortured relationships with one another and their respective mates, Kath's second husband Kel (Glenn Robbins) and Kim's husband Brett (Peter Rowsthorn), as well as Kim's "second best friend" (and lesbian neighbor?) Sharon Strzelecki (Magda Szubanski).

The Young & the Restless

Still, there are soap opera allusions—the over-the-top opening credits parody those of *The Young and the Restless,* for example. And Kath and Kel represent the perfect couple of the kind seen on soaps where no matter what their problems—including Kel's homosexual encounters in the Navy and his "hobby" being a sperm donor—they live happily ever after.

A little too happily for some. They are fond of conducting vivid discussions of their very active sex life in front of Kim and Brett and giving full reign to their libido in public places—such as when they lose control in a "riverdancing" contest and Kel overexcitedly starts humping Kath on stage in front of the audience.

Trophy Wife or Fishwife?

In contrast, Kim is usually at loggerheads with practically everyone. Everything that Kath is not, Kim is—shrill selfish, sour, and slovenly. "The laziest girl in the world," according to Kath. Kim's portrayer, Gina Riley, is hilarious at conveying Kim's miserable disposition and her disastrously bad attempts at being a fashionista. The actress is shameless, donning low-riding hip-huggers and midriff-

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TWO TWO ONE

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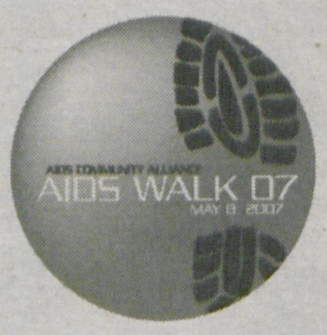
for more information

AIDS WALK 2007
Sunday May 6, 2007



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Lancaster Museum Of Art
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www.lancastermuseumart.com

Demuth Foundation
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Lancaster, PA 17602
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www.demuth.org

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Heritage Center Museum Of Lancaster County Incorporated
7 W King St
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 299-6440

Pennsylvania School Of Art And Design
204 N Prince St
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 396-7833

Two Guilty in Ohio continued

that is not an oxymoron – but even as we speak, pundits are screeching over the proposed moved of primaries to February in at least four populous states, including Sweet Home Illinois. One critic said this is being done by Illinois because the state wants to give Barak Obama an edge; as if all of Illinois with one voice, sings the praises of Obama and conspires for him. Moving the primaries up, critics say, will favor candidates with big money and squeeze out those who need more time to raise campaign funds. Cutting off possible challengers is an ugly idea, but the desperation pot is heating up on all sides, and it's hard to imagine what tricks will be pulled out of the political magic hats over the next 22 months. Some trickery will be legal, some will not. Changing the primary to an early date may be called a piece of political trickery, but it could fall out in favor of either party, depending on circumstances – and it is not illegal. Hand-picking which ballots make a recount is illegal. I urge those who dare, to read Robert Kennedy's article, which Rolling Stone makes available online in entirety, with Web-only citations; a quick Internet search will turn it up. Dare to be disturbed, before 2008. This column is reprinted with permission from the Daily Southtown, Tinley Park, Ill., part of the Sun-Times News Group, Chicago. The Daily Southtown's Sunday Insight section received a first place award for 2006 from Suburban Newspapers of American for the best editorial section. Lang's column appears each week in Insight.

3rd Street Gallery

March–April Artists
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LAURA BASSO
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March 23, 7pm-9pm

3 Day Watercolor Workshop With Paul Allen Taylor: March 23, 24, & 25.
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ARTS at 510 Presents "Interiors" and "Homage to Earth"

For March, Arts at 510 owner Susan Schreckengaust, 510 N. Third Street, Harrisburg, presents "Interiors." The collection features oil paintings by Washington's Katherine Steiger; custom restored furniture by Harrisburg's Neil Choquette; faux-painted furniture by Camp Hill's Christine Rathbun; and painted furniture by Washington's Shauna Morrissey.

For April, the gallery presents "Artists Pay Homage to the Earth," featuring paintings by Mount Joy's Brad Stroman; metal sculptures by Etter's Michael Lehman; jewelry by California's Colleen Bickman; and sculptures made from found objects by Philadelphia's Leo Sewell.

First Fridays – subhed

Also, the "HANG AT 510" monthly event on the first Fridays from 5:10-7:10 pm on March 2 and April 6, with free food, live music and beverages. As in the previous event, there are great incentives to attend, detailed below.

March Interiors Show Artists

KATHERINE STEIGER - Katherine Steiger's studio in Vienna, Virginia, must be quite an uplifting space. Filled with her current works of oil paintings that focus on interior still lifes, each piece captures the moment. According to Steiger, "In my still life paintings, I am inspired by the beguiling beauty of nature and the sense of well-being and bounty it represents. The simplest subject matter can be invested with a wealth of personal emotion. In capturing the ornamental and decorative character of an apple or a rose, I can record the abundance of nature and celebrate the 'here and now.' It is a victory, however temporary, over the unknown

NEIL CHOQUETTE - Furniture reborn and revived through the design skills and mind of Harrisburg's Neil Choquette are in hot demand (Milford's Hotel Fauchere, for example) and for good reason. Choquette has the excitement and vision to transform old worn furniture into gems. His high degree of style and his attention to detail are heightened by his innate ability to prescribe just the right textiles for a project. Vintage wool mohair, woven straw, suede, leather and high-end textured vinyl are just a few examples of his options at hand. However, it is his ability to involve his clients right from the start, that secures an end product that matches the needs, personality and style of his customers. Choquette's clients span from Chicago to the East Coast. His studio and workshop "Neil Choquette" is located at 421 North Second Street, Harrisburg at the corner of State and Second Street, Harrisburg, offers an ever-changing front window display of his recent completed works. 319-0232

Katherine Steiger, Interior with Goldfish, oil on museum board, $550

SHAUNA MORRISEY - Where can you find whimsy and warmth in one place? Shauna Morrisey of Woodinville, Washington has just the right collection to add to your home. A perfect combination of color, art and design are found in her painted screens, tables, nightstands, lazy susan and chairs. Her creations transform the viewer of her works immediately. Without question, any of her products are show-stoppers and conversation pieces. Unique, brilliant, functional furniture and home accents are unique and Morrisey, a self-taught artist, proves that imagination is the key ingredient to fine work, and as her byline says – "art. furniture. fun." – she nailed it.

CHRISTINE RATHBUN - Christine Rathbun is inspired by old, sad and tired furniture that is well built with interesting lines. Color, pattern and various faux techniques help her to revitalize a piece. Marble, crackle, leather and stone will appear where previously there was only scarred wood. "Most often, the piece itself will tell me what it wants. When working on a commissioned piece, the client and I start with color or a theme and go from there." Self-taught, Christine lives in Camp Hill where she works from her basement studio and dreams of one day having a work space that is above ground.

Valuable gifts on First Fridays

On First Fridays, March 2, and April 6, 5:10 – 7:10 p.m, the gallery will provide prizes to attendees. Called "What Color Dot is on Your Ruler," the gallery is giving away 100 wooden rulers to attendees, who will blindly pick one out of a bag. "What better way to measure for picture hanging or furniture placement," says Schreckengaust. The rulers with different color dots represent different prizes. The odds are 1 in 10, better than any lottery. Prizes include a $100 gift certificate (1/green dot); $50 gift certificate(1/red dot); $25 gift certificate (1/blue dot); package of 5 PA Lottery tickets (4/yellow dot); Hand-made Crystal Kisses (2 / orange dot) and a Framed Mirror from the Custom Frame Shoppe (1/black dot). No prizes will be handed out prior to the event. No purchase is necessary to attend the free monthly social.

ARTS at 510 is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with extended hours for artist receptions. Call 717.724.0364 or www.artsat510.com.

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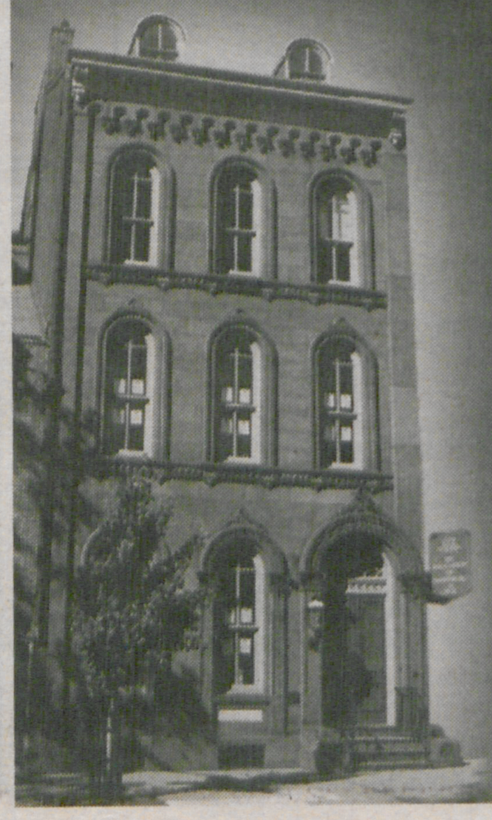
Art Association of Harrisburg Events

Four-Artist Invitational Exhibition, thru March 22
- Oil and Acrylic Landscapes by David Henry, Brian Richmond, Fritz VonderHeiden and Steve Wetzel.

One Night Stand Exhibition at Max's, 17 N. Second St., Friday, March 9, 6-9 PM
- Featuring varied artwork by emerging and some established AAH artists. $10 cover charge.

ART ASSOCIATION OF HARRISBURG



Invitational Exhibition
March 30-May 3
-featuring mixed media, photography and oils by Carol Emerson, Dave Hammaker, Richard Neff, Lou Schellenberg. Opening Reception-Friday, March 30, 5-8 PM, music by Homage Accadienne.

One Night Stand Exhibition at Max's, Friday, April 27, 6-9 PM.
-Varied artwork. $10 cover charge.

Spring Semester Art Classes for Children and Adults - April 16-June 30. Call for brochure!

Call 717-236-1432 for more information.www.artassocofhbg.com
21 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Volunteers Needed

Lancaster Arts and Entertainment Festival 2007

Last summer RainbowNetCreations co-owners, Charles Nichols and Barry Russell, discussed the possibility of sponsoring a GLBT Art Festival drawing talent from Lancaster, York and surrounding counties.

Following meetings with Katie Kennedy, Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray's special events coordinator, and Gray the date of June 23rd, 2007 was designated Lancaster's 1st Annual Arts and Entertainment Festival.

The planning group is comprised of Erica Milner, Mayra Muniz, Shane Stoner, Michael Fry, Kevin Robinson, Jeff Roane, Sara Sweger, Fran Lowe, Barbara Kyne, Mimi Shapiro, Greg Carey, Mark Stoner, Barry Russell.

At the present time, nonprofit 501(c) 3 status is pending for Rainbow Rose Community. It is hoped that RRC and this year's festival will be able to partner with an established non-profit.

Currently, the new group needs individuals to staff committees: administration, site management, fiscal responsibility, concessions, artists, entertainment, publicity, public relations, web site, and volunteers.

According to the group's information, Rainbow Rose Community is a service organization of individuals, groups, businesses and organizations dedicated to building safe, inclusive communities in Lancaster, York and surrounding counties. The new organization exists to strengthen the glbt community by building a network comprising all segments of the community.

Members include individuals, schools, colleges, universities, businesses, religious organizations, foundations, financial organizations.

Contact: Rainbow Rose Community and/or Lancaster Arts and Entertainment Festival 2007 717.380.1071;rainbownetcreations@yahoo.com.

3rd Street Gallery Hosts

Watercolor Workshop with Paul Allen Taylor

3rd Street Gallery will host a 3-day Watercolor Workshop with Paul Allen Taylor on March 23-25. (See the gallery's ad for examples of Taylor's work.) The gallery's Featured Artists for March and April are Paul Allen Taylor and Pastel & Acrylics artist Laura Basso. An artist's reception for Taylor and Basso is March 23, 7-9 PM

3rd Street Gallery & Artistic Collectibles
214 Third Street New Cumberland, PA 17070
(717-770-1447)

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2nd Floor Gallery

(717) 697-0502 www.2ndFloorGallery.com

March 17th - *"Gallery Saturday"*
6pm to 9pm
Featured artist 1st Floor: *Adam Hozella*
Featured artist 2nd Floor: *Richard Neff*

April 21st - *"Gallery Saturday"*
7pm to 10pm
Featured artist 1st Floor: *John McNulty*
Featured artist 2nd Floor: *Patricia Koscienski*

Gallerie 13

(717) 591-6940 www.Gallerie13.com

March 2nd - *"1st Friday"*
6pm to 9pm
Featured artists: *Pat Sentman & Pam Wellington*

April 6th - *"1st Friday"*
6pm to 9pm
Featured artists: *Bownyn Jean Hughes & Lawrence Berger-Knorr*

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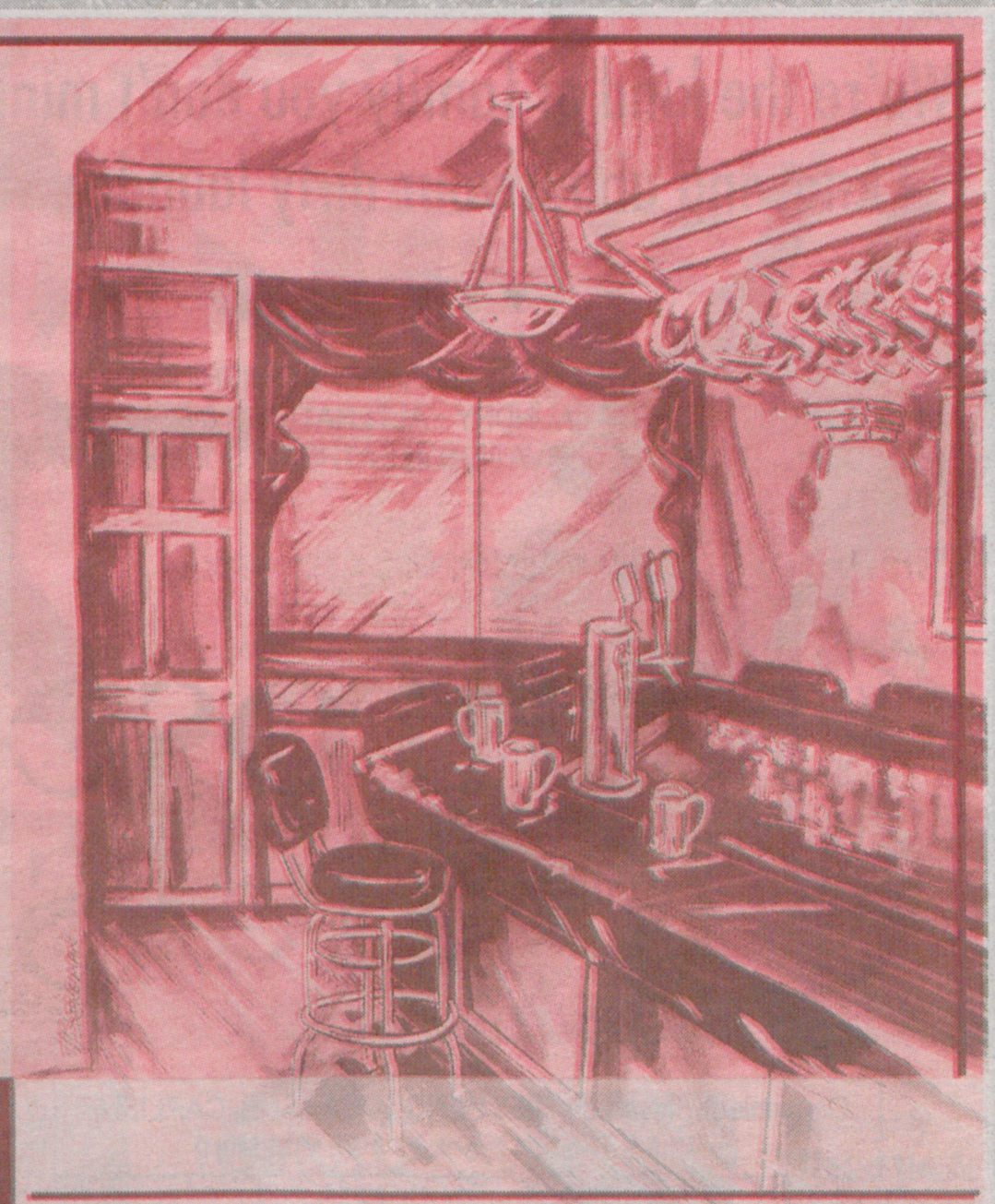

268 NORTH STREET • HARRISBURG, PA 17101
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PA State Bank Supports Employment Center

Pennsylvania State Bank recently donated $2,500 to Carlisle's Employment Skills Center to support its ongoing employment skills education and training programs.

"We are fortunate to have an organization like the Employment Skills Center as a resource for residents in Central Pennsylvania, and we are pleased to support its personal growth and workforce development programs," said Ed Bidelspach, community office manager, Pennsylvania State Bank. "Supporting the communities where we live and work is an important part of our culture at Pennsylvania State Bank."

The Employment Skills Center serves approximately 300 individuals each year by providing core programs such as GED preparation, basic literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESL) classes to help people improve their employment skills as well as their quality of life.

Pennsylvania State Bank, an affiliate of Sterling Financial Corporation, serves Dauphin and Cumberland counties and surrounding areas through six financial centers located in Camp Hill, Mechanicsburg, East Pennsboro, Colonial Park, downtown Carlisle and West Hanover Township.

Collaboration Produces New Publica-

Cumberland County, Carlisle Regional Advocates for Nutrition and Activity (CRANA), and The Carlisle Area Health & Wellness Foundation (CAHWF) have collaborated to produce a new publication "Simply Moving: A Guide to Public Parks, Trails and Recreation Facilities in Cumberland and Perry Counties."

The guide is a collaborative effort to promote healthful living through activities in our region. Copies of the publication are available from the Carlisle Area Health & Wellness Foundation (960-9009) or the Cumberland County Planning Commission (240-5362) at their offices and on their websites at www.cahwf.org and www.ccpa.net.

Carlisle Area Events - March 2007

3/2

The Princely Players

This eight-member vocal ensemble performs a unique program of African-American spirituals, work songs, hymns, and songs of freedom...
Messiah College-Hostetter Chapel

3/3

"Artists in Action"

See Joan Rhodes demonstrate her work creating copper wire and sterling silver jewelry.
The Village Artisans Gallery

3/3-4

The Spring Fever Arts and Craft Show

The Holly Inn is hosting this arts and craft show to benefit the Amelia Givin Free Library and the Employment Skills Center
Mt. Holly Inn

3/9

"Tap City on Tour"

Three generations of hoofers perform backed by a jazz trio
Carlisle Theatre

3/10

"Artists in Action"

Watch Suzanne Harman create her painted silk scarves.
The Village Artisans Gallery

3/16 – 3/25

"Hospitality Suite"

A play about male-bonding and business relationships.
Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg

3/17

"Artists in Action"

Watch jewelry designer Pam Tilly create her glass and silver jewelry.
The Village Artisans Gallery

3/21

Man of La Mancha

Luhrs Center

3/21-4/22

"The Taffetas"

You'll be transported back to simple pleasures like poodle skirts, taffeta evening wear and music that will make you smile and hum all night long.
Allenberry Playhouse

3/23-8/4

"Bomb Shelters to Bobby Socks: The 1950s in Cumberland County"

A exhibit celebrating the Baby Boom Generation as well as pop culture and design of the 1950s.
Cumberland County Historical Society

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2007 Theatre Schedule

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March 21 - April 22

The Odd Couple
April 25 - May 13

Clue, the Musical
May 16 - June 17

Oklahoma
June 20 - July 22

The Full Monty (adult situations)
July 25 - August 26

Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap
August 29 - September 23

Stand By Your Man,
Tammy Wynette Story
September 26 - November 3

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Joan Rhodes - Copper Jewelry - March 7
Suzanne Harman - Painted Silk Scarves - March 10
Pam Tilly - Dichroic Glass Jewelry - March 17
Bob Williams - Wildlife Woodcarver - March 24
Patty Marshall - Whimsical Clay Sculpture - March 31
Robin Lathroum & Tammy Lamey
Wearable & Wall Fiber Art - April 7
Tom Steck - Outsider Art Carvings - April 14

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 10 - 6 Sunday 12 - 5

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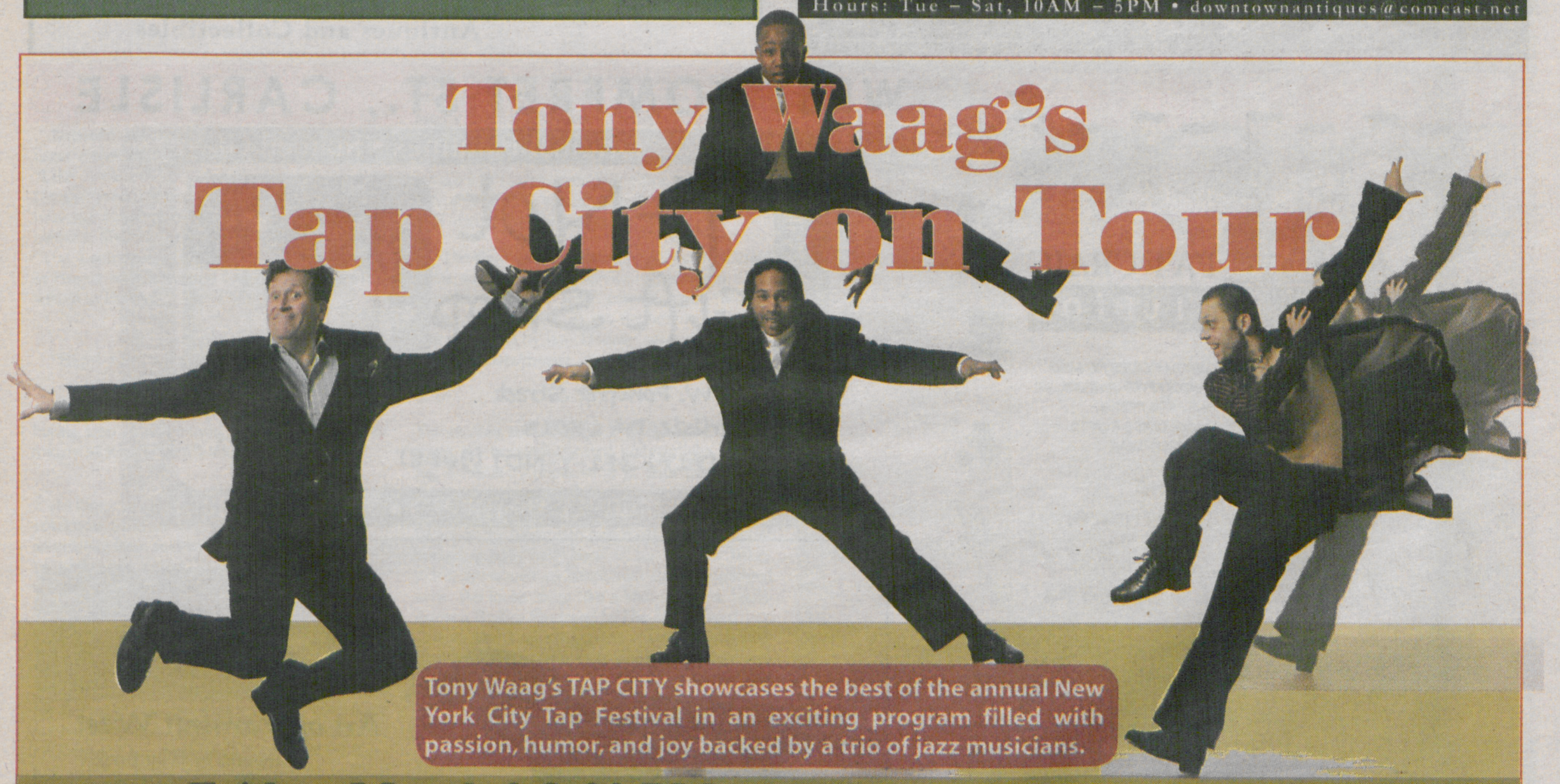
Tony Waag's Tap City on Tour



Tony Waag's TAP CITY showcases the best of the annual New York City Tap Festival in an exciting program filled with passion, humor, and joy backed by a trio of jazz musicians.

Friday, March 9 8:00 PM

Ticket prices: $37, $32, and $25 Children 12 and under

Join Tony Waag's tappers for a tap workshop before the show. Call the theater at 717/258-0666 for more information. First come, first serve basis until class is full.

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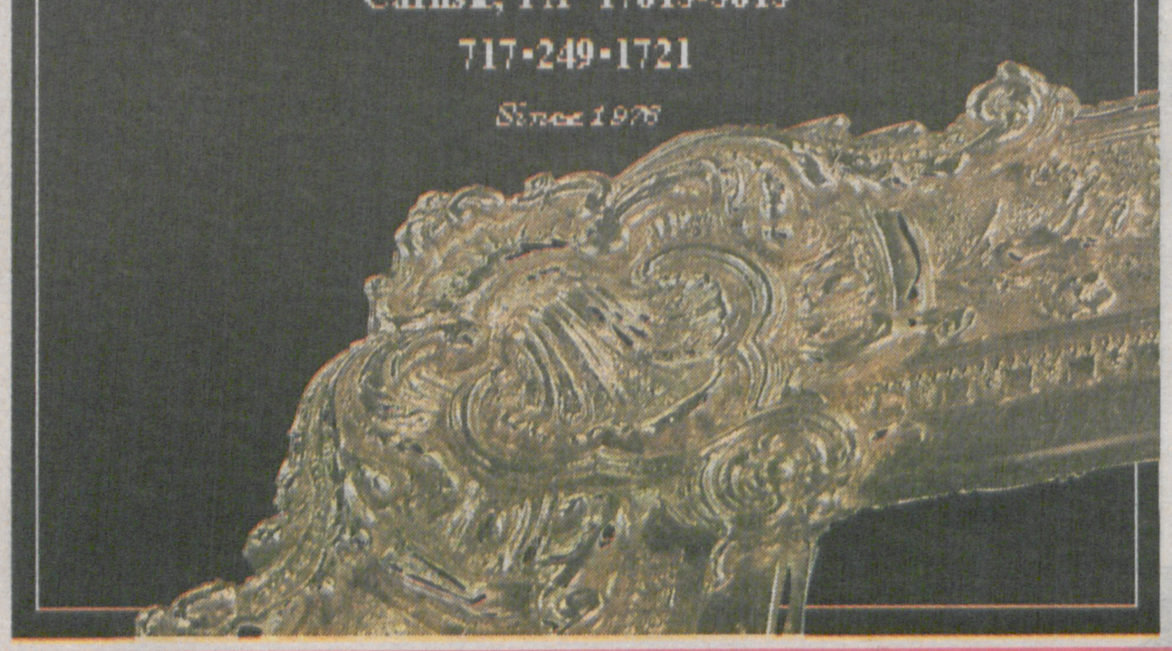

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News page

Lancaster Roundtable Targets Economic Growth

A business roundtable held by Democratic Deputy Whip Mike Sturla, D-Lancaster, attracted more than 35 businesses, social service agencies, non-profits and local government representatives.

Projects reviewed included New Clipper Magazine Stadium, Lancaster city improvements, Heritage Center's Quilt Museum, Pennsylvania Academy of Music, Hotel and Convention Center Project, and redevelopment of Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster General Hospital-Armstrong conversion plan.

"We have steadily been making great headway, building the foundations for the long-term growth and prosperity of our community," Sturla said. "Since 2005, Lancaster County has received in excess of $225 million in state investments, resulting in 11,300 new jobs. The county has also seen a decrease in unemployment from 4.3 to 3.9 percent over this same time period."

York: Attention Poets, Musicians, Artists, Singers & Songwriters.

The William Penn H.S. GLASS (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Students) will hold a poetry coffee house and open mike night March 16, 7:30 to 9 pm. The event is slted for the performing Arts Center at William Penn High School, 101 W. College Ave. Parking on Princess Street.

Youth from the glbt community and their friends ages 14-22 are invited to participate along with members of local gay/straight alliances, GSA leadership, teachers, and others involved with glbt youth in the York area. Bring original poetry, songs, and music to share. All music will be acoustic. Original artwork will also be displayed.

Information: Yvonne Rothstein (717) 849-1218 ext. 5306; rothsyvo@ycs.k12.pa.us.

Harrisburg Welcomes Professional Basketball

Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed and professional basketball team owners Richard and Cynthia Anzolut recently announced that both area professional basketball teams have moved to Harrisburg. The Harrisburg Horizon and the Lady Horizon men's and women's basketball teams opened their 10th season at the Manny Weaver Gymnasium at 19th & Derry Streets in January.

Commerce Bank Announces "Cash for College"

Commerce Bank recently announced the bank seeks high school senior applicants for Commerce Bank "Cash for College" scholarships. The program recognizes high school seniors demonstrating an appreciation for community service with a $2,500 cash gift to help pay for college education. High school seniors who reside within Commerce Bank's service area (Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York Counties) are eligible. Applicants must enroll in a full-time course of study at an accredited US two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school no later than the fall term of the 2007-08 school year. Applications are available at Commerce Bank's 30 retail locations or at commercepc.com. Postmarked deadline is on or before March 9, 2007.

Confuse 'Em with Facts

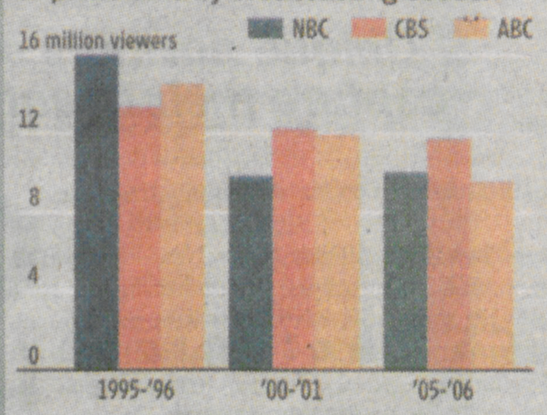
Breaking up AND coming out are both hard to do. Especially if your normal posture of self-loathing and arrested development leads you to self medicate with drugs and alcohol so you can get off. Think Mark Foley, Rev. Tim Haggard, and Jim McGreevey. We call it "Pulling a McGreevey or Flogging Your Foley." We fail to see why we ought to reward these weasels with book deals and TV appearances. If McGreevey stood before cameras and said anything, it should have been: "I am a weasel American. I lie to myself, my wife, my kids, my colleagues. Do not confuse my behavior with being gay. I behaved the way I did because I have no spine." He was forced out of the closet. His actions were not heroic. While we're at it: "Gay" sexuality should not be the central issue in these scandals. Sexual orientation has nothing to do with predation (Foley) or lying (McGreevey). According to a 2000 Justice Dept. study, 97% of adults who sexually assault 12-to17-year-old children are male – and 90% of their victims are female.

Tuned In or Turned Off?

NBC leads the way by abandoning high-cost dramas and comedies in the first hour of prime time. The 8 o'clock time slot was the Holy grail in programming until 2007. That's where readers saw "Happy Days" in the 70s, "Cosby" in the 80s, and "friends" in the 90s. DVDs have changed all that. Viewers no longer make much room for weekday "appointment TV." Where to look for the action? "There's no question there's more money in late night," says NBC's Fred Silverman, Johnny Carson's producer.

Turned Off

Total average viewers for the first hour of prime time by broadcasting season*



*Data collected from Sept. 19 - May 24
Source: Nielsen Media Research

Freed Screens Film Festival continued

Audience Award

Between two and 15 minutes, the festival films cover comedy, drama, and documentary. "Like Father, Like Edison", directed by John Liang (Freed was assistant director), has already won the audience award at the Chicago International Short Film Festival. Another selection, "The Locksmith's Apprentice", Freed directed in Prague with NYU and FAMU, the oldest film school in Europe.

Raising Funds

"Right now we're raising money for "The Egg," Freed says. He has raised about one-third. His first unveiling came last month at Harrisburg's popular Midtown Cinema.

On March 31, 6pm, he and his crew are hosted at Annville's Allen Theatre in Annville. Tickets are $8 (Student Rate $5) with a reception and discussion in MJ's Coffee Shop next door, which will feature the discussion.

"The Egg" is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization. Contributions to "The Egg" can be made through Fractured Atlas and are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Donate: www.fracturedatlas.org/donate/theegg.

Cable: Kath & Kim continued

baring tops simultaneously, giving too-generous a view of Kim's "down under."

The Minogue Sisters

As funny as the show is, it's even funnier when you know a little about Australian pop culture. In an episode from season 1, Brett sleeps with (or so he thinks) two sisters, Kylie and Dannii Bolton, a reference to dueling Aussie pop star siblings, Kylie and Dannii Minogue. In another episode from season 3, Kylie herself makes an appearance as Kim and Brett's now grown and shrewier-than-thou daughter, Epponnee-Rae.

Rachel Griffiths *(Muriel's Wedding, Six Feet Under)* makes an appearance as well, when Kath crashes an outdoor garden party held during the Melbourne Cup, Australia's version of the Kentucky Derby. Kath, already drunk from swilling ill-gotten bubbly, chats up Rachel, then coughs in her presence. In the next instant, Kath compliments Rachel on the lovely brooch that the actress is wearing. Griffiths peels "the brooch" off her dress; it's actually a lettuce leaf that Kath just spat up on her.

Class Conflict

Beyond the humor, though, there's a subtle but strong theme of class conflict in *Kath & Kim.* The mother and daughter's world orbits around trying to be sophisticated and stylish, yet being completely hopeless at it. Kim thinks she's trendy and gorgeous, following the blingy, sporty style of Victoria Beckham, yet doesn't have the figure or the income to pull it off. Kath thinks of herself as a hip baby boomer, but with her frizzy perm, appliquéd sweaters, and shoulder-padded suits, she looks more like a badly coiffed, badly dressed Barbra Streisand in *The Main Event.*

Kath and Kim struggle to maintain their dignity, especially with evil store clerks like Pru and Trude, characters also played by Turner and Riley, who work in a Williams-Sonoma-styled housewares store. With their pretentious attitudes, snide remarks ("Oh look, it's a vision in vinyl!"), and matching Martha Stewart-clone looks, Pru and Trude are a reminder to anyone watching that the upper classes can be just as tacky and vulgar as the lower ones.

But don't let the Marxist interpretation or the obscure pop cultural references put you off—the show is more than anything just plain funny. Unlike most of our sitcoms, there's no laugh track, and the Aussie accents and word usage can sometimes cover up a joke, but with a little perseverance, the good humor reveals itself.

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Del Monte Pounces on Gay Pets

"Gay people have a very emotional connection with their pets."

By Michael Wilke

While Bruiser, the gay dog from "Legally Blonde 2," took the spotlight this summer, Del Monte Pet Products zeroed in on gay pet owners.

The company brought its Pounce and Pupperoni brands to gay events in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, handing out product samples and pet photo frames to people who took a survey, and offering water to thirsty canines. Empty product packages were collected, each garnering a one dollar donation for local pet support organizations.

Advertisements featuring a French bulldog resting in the grass next to his owner, along with the headline, "Your Pride, His Joy" appeared in gay magazines and Gay.com. A lavender background carried paw prints and illustrations of the dog and cat logos from the brands.

Email outreach to consumers will be conducted through the end of the year. In October, the two brands were also represented at an annual women's event, this year honoring Whoopi Goldberg, at the New York City Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center.

The Pet Connection

"Gay people have a very emotional connection with their pets, stronger than the general population," notes Jeff Watters, vice president of pet snacks marketing at Del Monte Pet Products. "A year ago, we undertook an in-depth look at our category and noted that the gay community was frankly being underserved and neglected."

Indeed, there is no competition. Back in October 1998, ads for another Del Monte brand, Nature's Recipe, appeared briefly in OUT magazine, but did not continue. No others filled in the gap. In Australia, a few ads for Science Diet from Hill's Pet Nutrition appeared late last year in Blue magazine.

But the potential is now opening up. Historically, once a major brand in any category enters the gay market, its competitors follow. Del Monte itself may commit further with its other big pet brands: Gravy Train, Cycle, 9 Lives, Meaty Bone, Kibbles 'n Bits, and Snausages.

"We're the category leaders and we think we have a lot to offer [the gay market] and they have a lot to offer us."

Del Monte agency Brand Buzz, a division of Young & Rubicam, worked with consultant Harold Levine to compile research on the market. According to Watters, they found that lesbians and gays are "not unlike empty nester households, where the cat or dog becomes the furry 'kid' — that's a fundamental driver in this community." He continues, "Cats and dogs do not cast judgment on owners or lifestyle."

Like more and more companies, Del Monte introduced the campaign with an ad created specifically for gay consumers, with more representations (read: cat lovers will show up too) planned for 2004. "We decided to customize the ad to be appropriate for the brand personality in a language that would resonate," Watters explains. "It will probably evolve creatively over the next six months as we collect feedback."

Even while ads won't run the remainder of the year, Watters plans to stay longer. "There is a strong conceptual interest in a more sustained effort," he says. "I see it as a three-year process, minimum, to establish our brand." Pre- and post-campaign research will track gay household share of the market the brand gains from its efforts.

While the standard demographic for the products skews older, which is typical for empty nesters, and particularly for buyers of cat treats, the gay age target is a bit younger, according to Watters.

Why Now?

So what brought Del Monte into the gay market now? "There has not been much groundbreaking thinking in this category," observes Watters. "Until recently, this was a staid category that did not have much product innovation. But now there's an emerging view of the importance pets play for the consumer. We hope to be one of the pioneers."

If conservatives balk at the company's arrival to the market, Watters says Del Monte will stay steady. "In the year 2003, let's hope that's not the case, but if so, it will not erode our commitment."

Gay pets and gay owners of pets can feel a bit more accepted with such efforts underway. But as always, good research is the best bet to get the most out of all efforts to provide a happy treat for all. Slurp.

Mike Wilke's Commercial Closet column covers gay issues in advertising, marketing and media. For 85 years of gay images worldwide see www.CommercialCloset.org.

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Gay & Lesbian Pet Ownership Demographics
The Fourth Edition of Packaged Facts

- Pet ownership is more common among members of the gay and lesbian community than it is among heterosexuals in the United States.
- Gay men and lesbians tend to buy treats and snacks for their animals more frequently than heterosexuals.
- Nearly four out of five gay and lesbian respondents reported owning a pet.
- Lesbians were more likely than gay men to have a pet (87 percent vs. 71 percent).
- Gay men were slightly more likely to own dogs than cats (41 percent vs. 38 percent).
- Lesbians were more likely to own cats than dogs (60 percent vs. 53 percent).
- One-fifth of the respondents reported spending between $300 and $432 annually on their pet.

Curve Magazine

- 56 percent of lesbian respondents owned a cat and 46 percent owned a dog.
- The average Curve reader reported spending $433 annually on her pets.

Witeck-Combs Communications /Harris Interactive

- 66 percent of gay and lesbian respondents owned pets, compared to 63 percent of heterosexual respondents.
- 31 percent of the gay and lesbian community reported buying their animals special pet treats or snacks at least once or twice a week to almost daily, compared to 22 percent of heterosexual respondents that reported buying such items with that frequency.

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Child Labor Back for Wal-Mart, Hanes, Other Companies

In a breathtaking disregard for Family Values, an estimated 200 children, some 11 years old or even younger, are sewing clothing for Hanes, Wal-Mart, J.C. Penney and Puma at the Harvest Rich factory in Bangladesh, according to a report by the National Labor Committee (NLC) on child labor.

The children report being routinely slapped and beaten, sometimes falling down from exhaustion, forced to work 12 to 14 hours a day, even some all-night, 19- to 20-hour shifts, often seven days a week, for wages as low as 6 and a half cents an hour, the report says.

The wages are so wretchedly low that many of the child workers get up at 5 a.m. each morning to brush their teeth using just their finger and ashes from the fire, since they cannot afford a toothbrush or toothpaste.

The workers say that if they could earn just 36 cents an hour, they could climb out of misery and into poverty, where they could live with a modicum of decency.

The report cites that in the month of September the children had just one day off, and before clothing shipments had to leave for the US, the workers were often kept at the factory 95 to 110 hours a week. After being forced to work a grueling all-night 19 to 20-hour shift, from 8 a.m. to 3 or 4 a.m. the following day, the children sleep on the factory floor for two or three hours before being woken to start their next shift at 8 a.m. that same morning.

The child workers are beaten for falling behind in their production goal, making mistakes or taking too long in the bathroom (which is filthy, lacking even toilet paper, soap or towels).

In 1996, after Charles Kernaghan and the National Labor Committee revealed that Kathie Lee Gifford's clothing line for Wal-Mart was being made by 12 and 13-year-olds in Honduras, the resulting scandal and publicity was enough to virtually wipe out child labor in garment factories around the world producing for export to the US.

Exactly a decade after the Kathie Lee Gifford scandal, children are again sewing clothing for Wal-Mart, Hanes and other US companies," said Charles Kernaghan, director of the National Labor Committee. "Children belong in school, not locked in sweatshops. Wal-Mart, Hanes and the other companies owe these children, and must now provide them with stipends to replace their wages and cover all necessary expenses to send them back to school."

Corporate monitoring has again proved a miserable failure, as Harvard Rich was certified by the US apparel industry's Worldwide Responsibly Apparel Production (WRAP) monitoring group. Not only did the US companies fail to notice the child workers, the beatings, the excessive mandatory overtime, but also that not one single worker in Harvest Rich was paid the correct overtime pay legally due them. Any worker daring to ask for their proper wages, or that their most basic legal rights be respected, would immediately be attacked, beaten and fired.

"Right now, more than 100 children at the Harvest Rich factory are being threatened with firing," says Kernaghan. "It is time for the US companies to act immediately, today, to guarantee that this does not happen and that the children are returned to school."

Full report, photos and video footage available at http://www.nlcnet.org.

The National Labor Committee is an independent, nonprofit human rights organization and the leading anti-sweatshop watchdog group in the US. The NLC has run successful campaigns not only against Kathie Lee Gifford and Wal-Mart but also on production for Sean "P Diddy" Combs, the NFL, NBA, GAP, Disney, Nike and others. Most recently, the NLC exposed the descent of the US-Jordan Free Trade Agreement into human trafficking and involuntary servitude.

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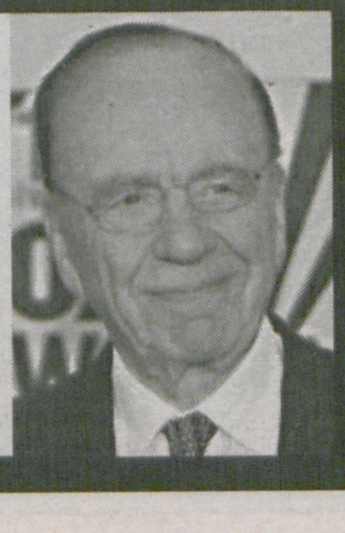
Babs Babbles

No "misty watercolor memories" here. Fans paid big bucks to hear the Diva, who included a W Bush impersonator (now that's a drag) in her act. From her perch on stage, she told a disgruntled fan to "shut the fuck up if you can't take joke."

Murdoch Soft or Hard on Hillary?



Confounding his supporters and investors, News Corporation media mogul Rupert Murdoch has been sidling up to Sen. Hillary Clinton lately. Accuracy in Media has asked," Is Murdoch moving his media properties to the left?" Will Murdoch-controlled DirecTV follow his British Sky Broadcasting and carry the forthcoming English-speaking version of *Al Jazeera?*

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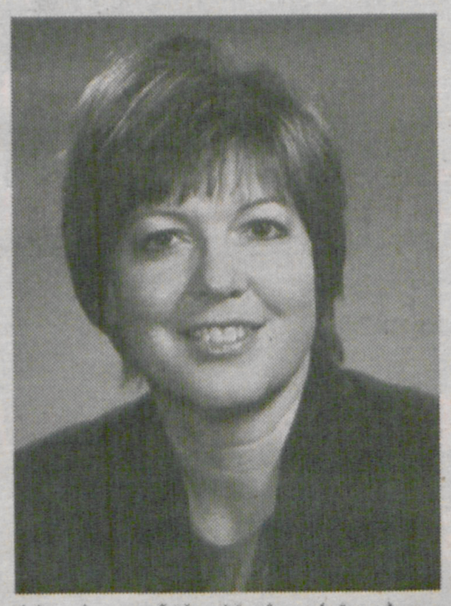

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Tuesday- Spoiled Rotten Tuesdays w/ DJ David Petrilla 18+ to enter 21+ to drink 10pm $5 cover, Bud Bottles $2.00

Wednesday- Happy Hour 5-7pm, Our Famous Karaoke w/ Carmel 10pm-1am Absolut/Red Bull $4.50

Thursday- L Thursdays w/ Sabrina, X-Rated specials, Half Price Happy Hour 5-7pm

Friday- Nights have Evolved w/ Resident DJ Stephen Durkin, Spinning your favorite Sexy progressive Beats from 9pm-2am. $5.00 cover, Captain and Coke $3.50, XS Follies the 4th Friday of the month

Saturday- Sizzling Saturdays w/ Resident DJ Jazzy Joyce 9pm-2am, Long Islands $5.00

Sunday- Tea Dance Party's 5pm-9pm & Karaoke w/ Todd from 10pm-1am, Select Draft on special

email: clubxs@gmail.com • http://www.clubxsyork.com/

Social Organizations & Recreational Clubs

Gay & Lesbian Artisan Pride
Phone: (717)732-0233
Contact: Michael Reed
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Calls and Emails Can be made Days/ Evenings
Email: mreeddesigns@yahoo.com

Discuss topics important to today's gay artist, Mentoring and nuturing growth of "Up Coming" and amateur artists, Promote art awareness within our own community, Creating and Coordinating group shows. Please email or call with interest/Questions/Comments.

Harrisburg Gay Men's & Women's Volleyball
3rd and Bridge St
New Cumberland, PA
Phone: 717.233.3172
Contact: Jim
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.-9.30 p.m.

Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland. Cost: $2.50

Harrisburg Ladies Night Out
PO Box 266
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: 717.232.8382
Contact: Judy Chambers
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available

HOWL
Contact: Gina Bowers-Miller
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: howlofpa@yahoo.com
Website: http://www.homestead.com/howlofpa/index.hmtl

HOWL hanging out with lesbians. Group of 140 women. Other web address http://groups.yahoo.com/group/howlofpa/ to join

Lambda Car Club Int'l Central PA Region
3623 Green Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717.238.9766
Contact: John Ball
Wheelchair Accessible: no
Hours: Meet monthly at different members houses, call for
Email: buickbum2@aol.com

Organization of GLBT people who are interested in collectable automobiles

Rainbow Pride Rural Project
2973 Jefferson St.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17110-2127
Phone: 717-236-7387
Contact: Kevin E. Burrell
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: kevinb2004@msn.com

This project intends to create support for the GLBT community living in rural York, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. It is funded by the Foundation for Enhancing Communities and housed within Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit located in uptown Harrisburg, Pa.

Students Advocating LGBTA Equality
Shippensburg University Cumberland Union Building
Box 89
Shippensburg, Pa 17265
Phone: 717-477-1616
Contact: Travis Eichelberger
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: susale@gmail.com
Website: www.ship.edu/~msa/SALE.htm

Susquehanna Club
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: camp@susq.org
Website: www.susq.org
Group camping open to LGBT people and their friends.

Susquehanna Valley Bears
PO Box 61478 Harrisburg, PA
Contact: John Bowermaster
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: secretarysvbears@yahoo.com or info@svbears.com
Website: www.svbears.com

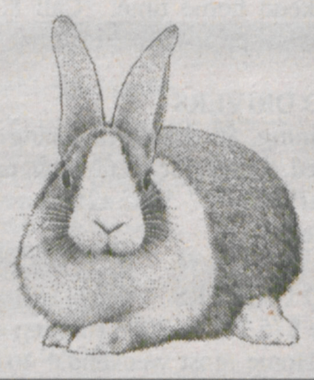
The Pennsmen, Inc
PO Box 401
HARRISBURG, PA 17108-0401
Phone: 717-232-3785
Contact: Steven James
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Evenings
Email: pennsmen@pennsmen.org
Website: www.pennsmen.org

The Pennsmen, Inc are Central PA's glbt leather/levi/kink social organization. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Neptune Lounge @ 3:00pm

The Rainbow Bowling Leagu
Phone: 763-8444
Contact: Mark or Robert
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Thursday 8:45 P.M.

The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. We bowl out of the ABC East Lanes on Eisenhower Blvd in Harrisburg and are considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining or you have friends that are interested in bowling on Thursday evenings. Call for more details. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes.

Women's Circle
c/o Bobbi Carmitchell
Locust Lane Music, P.O. Box 8301
Lancaster, Pa 17604
Phone: 717.872.4512
Contact: Bobbi Carmitchell
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: bobbi@womenscircle.org
Website: www.womenscircle.org



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· March 11 and 25, 2007 · 7:00 pm at St. Paul's United Church of Christ
MAUNDY SERVICE DINNER AND EUCHARIST:
· April 5, 2007 · 6:30 pm
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE:
· April 6, 2007 · 7:30 pm
EASTER SUNDAY:
· April 8, 2007 · 8:15 am and 10:30 am
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Harmony Hall, Phoenix Contact Honored

By Lindsay Davis
Press And Journal Staff

Two Lower Swatara Township businesses only a mile apart on Fulling Mill Road were recently honored as finalists in the Central Penn Business Journal's Business of the Year Awards.

Harmony Hall, also known as Karen's Catering, was selected as one of five finalists in the Business of the Year with 1-50 employees category. Phoenix Contact USA was one of five finalists in the Corporate Citizen of the Year category.

"This was such a big compliment and honor. Not only do I think we're on the right track, but apparently so does the business community," said Karen Taylor, chief executive officer of Harmony Hall and Karen's Catering. She said she was flattered to be considered alongside several larger businesses.

The Lower Swatara Township businesses were two of 29 honored in the CPBJ's third annual Central Penn Business of the Year Awards.

"We're thrilled to be included. The other businesses are so huge. We're in amazing company," Taylor said.

Since she started Karen's Catering almost 20 years ago in 1987, Taylor has built a successful full-service wedding-planning business. But that's not what earned her company a spot as a finalist in the awards.

Taylor received a wake-up call in the spring of 2005 when a vendor told her he wasn't aware that Karen's Catering did anything besides weddings. After polling nearly everyone she knew and getting similar responses, Taylor knew she needed to do something to gain more attention for the other aspects of her business.

"It's hard to look at yourself as a business and see that part of it is going really well and part of it is not," Taylor said.

And so she embarked on an eight-month rebranding campaign focused on Harmony Hall, her full-service banquet facility, and services that cater to corporate gatherings. That is what helped her become a finalist.

Taylor is now fiercely promoting her facility and planning services for business meetings, business socials, team-building retreats and even stand-alone events. She is collaborating with Cupid.com to host lock-and-key nights for singles and putting on a white glove affair known as Vodka Night.

"That's the push for us right now. Weddings are all people think we do and we're really working hard to change that," Taylor said.

She is still Karen's Catering, but she is also hoping people will soon know the business as Harmony Hall, too.

Though Phoenix Contact's primary focus as a business is on industrial technology, CPBJ recognized the company for its volunteer efforts throughout the greater Middletown community. The journal noted Phoenix Contact's scholarships, after-school tutoring at Reid Elementary School and hosting an annual children's party as reasons for its nomination.

Lisa Hall, communications manager for Phoenix Contact, said employees have worked together since the company applied for the award to have a successful clothing drive and build a Habitat for Humanity house.

"We started doing the framing in the parking lot, then sent people down to Thibodaux, La., four times to finish it," Hall said.

Individual charity efforts and donations have also become popular among employees.

"Hopefully, when we apply again next year, they'll consider those things, too," Hall said.

Publisher Receives Award

At its first annual awards luncheon, the Greater Harrisburg AIDS Fund, affiliated with The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, selected a corporate and an individual awardee for their community work. Central VOICE founding publisher and editor Frank Pizzoli was the selected individual.

Pizzoli has been involved with HIV/AIDS issues at the local, state, and national levels since the epidemic's beginning. He has published extensively in POZ, Instinct, New York Blade News and Washington Blade and is a past grant recipient of the New York-based PEN Writers Fund for Writers & Editors. He is volunteer founding publisher and editor of Central VOICE (formerly Alternative Central) and founder of nonprofit Positive Opportunities, Inc., a Points of Light Foundation award winner.

He joined POZ magazine's the 10th anniversary cover photographed by internationally-known photographer Spencer Tunick. The cover story is the subject of an award-winning HBO/Cinemax documentary. Pizzoli's interactive play "Paradise Lost & Narrative Found," based on the lost dialogue among gay and other communities, has been presented in workshop in Denver, Boulder, Delaware, and New York City. He is an original member of the Gay Men's Health Summit working nationwide to bring health and wellness to men. He has served as Adjunct Faculty for Central Penn College.

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